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African Violet

Dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February 1996 Volume 49 Number 1

AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:
Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual $18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - $20.50; Commercial USA $30; Commercial International - $33.75; Life (USA) - $275. International Life $325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - $20; Council, State or Region - $20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955, 407-631-1106.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, P. O. Box 38, Oreland, PA 19075.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, 1534 Robeson, Fall River, MA 02720.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Atlanta, GA - May 20-25, 1996. St. Petersburg, FL - June 1-8, 1997. Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - $8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 $6.00 per 100;1000 and over - $4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 $27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - $25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over $23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - $10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook **prior** to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is $4.25

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; FAX 409-839-4329.

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

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"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send to Al and Cathy Cornibe, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith, 489 Linwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209 and Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - $13.25 postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - $8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - $25.00. Updates (when available) - $25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Richard Nicholas, 648 Woodbriar Ct., Evansville, IN 47715

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - $7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February Volume 49 Number 1

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From the Blue Ribbon Display
Table of ACA's Violet Tree
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
Exhibited by: John and
Doris Brownlie
Hybridized by: John Brownlie
Photo Credit: Donna Moses

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African Violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

Dear AVSA Members and Friends,

It is my privilege to extend to all of you, on behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of our Society, my best wishes for a New Year filled with hope, encouragement, and good health.

With the New Year also comes our personal resolve to give our African violets the tender, loving care that they really enjoy and deserve. African violets have a wonderful way of showing their appreciation for the effort you make in caring for them. As you give them what they need, you help them produce lush plants and loads of beautiful blossoms! Try it. Your plants will delight you with good results!

As we begin the new year of 1996 our immediate thoughts are of the number of local African Violet Shows being planned and presented by all of our affiliates and our own Annual AVSA Show and convention. How fortunate we are to be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our association and to return to the city where it all began–Atlanta, Georgia. And how lucky we are to still have a small number of that brave group of delegates to that Convention presently serving our society in very active and important roles. What a nostalgic trip this is going to be for them!

Among the many tours being offered for our enjoyment will be the one taking you to Callaway Gardens, the home of the Butterfly House. Experience walking through an enclosed area where climate and temperature are controlled so that butterflies from around the world can live and thrive. Exotic and beautiful plants offer lovely blossoms and foliage for the butterflies and their human guests to enjoy. There will be a large number of other tours offered for your pleasure. Regardless of your tastes, there will be one to please you!

To celebrate the '50 Golden Years With Violets', the Atlanta Convention Officers and their committees are working over-time to see that we all experience a wonderful time when we join them at our 1995 AVSA Convention. Why don't you take the centerfold section (with its colorful violet pages), peruse it, and see for yourself what a fun trip it would be to attend the Convention and help celebrate our Golden Anniversary!

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702 • (409) 839-4725

Happy 1996! What an exciting year this will be as we celebrate fifty years of AVSA. Make your plans soon to attend the Golden celebration in Atlanta this spring.

Please see the violet pages in this issue for your convention information. I changed the format of this insert to free more AVM pages for violet-related articles

My most sincere "thank you" to the **LONE STAR AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL** of Texas and the **METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL** of Missouri. Each of these fine organizations donated $1,000 for the purchase of a computer and printer for the use of the AVM Editor. Not only will this wonderful machine make my work on the AVM more up-to-date and timely, but it has opened up many more creative possibilities. Again, I thank you.

As you look through the ad pages, please note the space we have made available to the Tanzania Wildlife Fund. This conservation organization is dedicated to halting the destruction of rainforest area in East Africa, home of the wild African violet.

As reported in a 1987 issue of the AVM, the Saintpaulia species were previously declared endangered by respected conservation groups. Unfortunately, in the last nine years, little has been done to assure the Saintpaulia's survival. At this time, the World Conservation Union, a well-established, respected, global Conservation group, considers the Saintpaulia species to be **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**.

Although commonly known as the African violet, the Saintpaulia's range is but a tiny fraction of that continent; less than .0001 percent! Saintpaulia evolved in what scientists call "the Eastern Arc"; one of the oldest rainforests in the world, containing a dozen mountain and coastal rainforests in East Africa that go back at least 100 million years. Much of the "Arc" forests and its Saintpaulia habitat have been destroyed. The remaining rainforest faces slow destruction from villages relying on the forest for fuel wood, timber and farmland. The fate of the wild African violets, grandparents of the thousands of varieties we enjoy today, hangs in the balance.

In 1992, the Tanzania Wildlife Fund (TWF), a member of AVSA, launched projects to protect the Saintpaulia habitat in the Usambara Mountains - where the plants were discovered a century ago. The TWF's Arc project has planted over 150,000 trees, both to regenerate primeval forest and to meet the wood needs of border villages, enabling them to suspend cutting in the old forests. By working with villages, addressing the people's needs, the Arc Project is preserving rainforest and Saintpaulia habitat. With our support, the Arc Project will develop a specific program to rescue the wild African violet.

Our convention director has spoken to Carter Coleman, of TWF and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group about giving a presentation at the Atlanta convention. Carter will be in Tanzania this winter, and his presentation will include recent slides of Saintpaulia in the wild.

Through Carter Coleman, I've been in touch with one of the scientists working on saving the home of the wild African violets. Watch for Dr. Jon Lovett's article on the early origins of the species plants, "African Violets and the Incredible Journey" in the March '96 AVM. With his article, Dr. Lovett sent three current slides of Saintpaulia species in the wild. Dr. Lovett is with the Department of Environmental Economics and Environmental Management at the University of York in England.

How appropriate in this, our 50th year, that we have the opportunity to learn more about, and perhaps even have a hand in saving the ancestors of the plant we take so much pleasure in, and the home in which they thrive.

Please make note of the AVM deadlines printed on the inside front cover of this magazine under the heading of AVSA Business. **There are deadlines for anything that you may want published in the AVM, especially Coming Events and ads**. Please adhere to these deadlines to ensure that your event, ad, etc. will be in the issue in which you want it to appear. Otherwise, I cannot guarantee that it will.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Memo

by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager

2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702

The office staff and I would like to take a moment to wish all of you a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thanks to all our wonderful AVSA members for the words of encouragement and praise that you have given us in the past year. Our members are the nicest people in the world and we appreciate every one of you. Our resolutions for the New Year are to give every member the prompt, efficient service they deserve, to publish a beautiful, informative magazine that we are all proud of, and to encourage people to join AVSA. We wish you many happy hours of violet growing and hope that all of you get as much pleasure from your violets as we do here at the office.

REMINDER TO ALL AFFILIATES: If you have not paid your Affiliate Liability Insurance for the 1996 year, please contact the office as soon as possible. Don't wait until a month before your show or sale and have the mall, or owner of the property where your function is to be held, ask for your certificate of liability insurance. Insurance notices went out to all Affiliate Presidents in September. Please check your records and determine if you have sent in your payment. My records indicate that as of this date, about 40 clubs have failed to renew their insurance.

We have installed a nice handicap ramp at the back entrance of the AVSA office. This will make it easier for some of our members to visit the office. Thanks again to the Beaumont Affiliate for donating $245 to the Building Maintenance Fund for this much needed ramp.

Thanks to all of you who donate so generously to the Building Maintenance Fund, Booster Fund, and Boyce Edens Research Fund. You make it possible for our organization to maintain our office and equipment in great condition, and encourage research and development in areas related to African violets. I am always touched when I see a donation made in honor of a loved one or friend. Donations pay tribute to loved ones in a special way that recognizes that person's love for the African violet.

We are getting very excited about the 1996 Atlanta Convention. As you know, AVSA will celebrate its 50th Anniversary this year, and the Atlanta convention will give all of our members the opportunity to celebrate this momentous occasion with great fanfare. Please make plans to attend.

The violet pages in this issue contain certain convention information and your registration form. Please read all of the information carefully. When completing your registration form, please remember to include your membership number, phone number, address and emergency contact. Carefully review the tours, meal functions, and presentations, then sign up for the ones you want to attend. Also, please double check your credit card number and expiration date if paying by credit card. The most common error made when paying by credit card is to leave out numbers when writing them down. Please use only ONE FORM PER PERSON when registering. We provide an extra form on the back cover that may be copied and sent in with the violet copy. Also, remember that if you want to be seated with someone or in a group at meal functions, all registrations must be mailed together in one envelope. We cannot make exceptions to this!

Thanks to those who called in or wrote to let me know that their affiliate had been left out of the September AVM supplement. Once again, I do apologize. The program that creates the affiliate list has been re-written, and this should not happen again. If your affiliate dues are not current, or the officers of your club are not updated when you elect new officers, the information will not be correct in the AVM. Make it a part of your club secretary or AVSA representative's job description to update the officer's names and addresses when elections are held. Listed below are three affiliate clubs that were left out of the September AVM.

1. PIKES PEAK AVS
Marcia Balonis, President, PO Box 38493
Colorado Springs, CO 80937

2. THE MOONLIGHT AVS
Bonnie Harris, President, 2908 Fincher Rd.
Haltom City, TX 76117

3. THE LATE BLOOMERS AVC
Mable Lewis, President, W 8934 Davis Rd.
Browntown, WI 53522

Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

Big and Beautiful

How to Grow HUGE African Violets

Have you ever seen a masterfully grown giant show plant? Imagine an African Violet that is more than twenty inches in diameter, with a hundred or more open blossoms held proudly above perfect rows of overlapping leaves - it is an awesome sight!

African violet shows across the country often place the biggest and most beautiful plants near the entrance of the show room, because they capture and hold the attention of even the most novice plant lover. We love to watch the reaction of an individual who has never seen African Violets with such power and size. "What are these? They're not African Violets, are they? Are they real? They sure don't look like the ones Mom has!"

Growing large standard violets is not for everyone. Space limitations often prohibit growing lots of the big plants in any collection. But it is amazing to watch a plant begin to assume massive proportions, and it is equally satisfying to know that you can make a plant grow like that!

Impress your friends and family. Follow a few simple rules and see how big you can grow an African Violet.

Choosing A Plant That Will Grow Large

Every African Violet has a genetic code inside its cells that determines how large it can grow. The code controls the maximum size of the individual leaves and the maximum diameter of the foliage. Usually the two go together, and a variety that has very large broad leaves will also grow to a very broad diameter. Conversely, a variety with small or tiny leaves will tend to grow to a much smaller size.

The smallest of African Violets are referred to as miniature (or even micro-miniature). Those only slightly larger are described as semiminiature. Even with four or five rows of their tiny leaves, these plants are genetically small and expected not to exceed an eight-inch diameter. Standard African violets are genetically capable of growing to a larger size. Standard violets have mature leaves that are usually two inches or more wide and long, and may be expected to grow to at least ten inches in diameter.

Large standards have the genetic ability to produce leaf blades that may measure six inches wide and long. When a large standard is well-grown with several rows of these huge leaves, it can easily achieve an overall diameter of twenty or more inches.

If you wish to grow a violet with impressive size, you must first select one of the "large standard" varieties. If you are ordering by mail, look for the descriptions that emphasize large-growing size.

Several varieties we have observed that can grow quite large include "Rain Man", "Majestic", "Magnolia", "Harbor Blue", and "Geronimo" - all plants that have come out in the past several years. "Something Special" and "Happy Cricket" have both been around for a bit longer, and are known for their size.

Remember that you must start with genetically large varieties, and then you must provide them with optimum conditions to grow them to their maximum size.

Basic Care

The large-growing plants will need the same quality conditions that are recommended for growing good African violets of any size.

Provide adequate and consistent light for a twelve hour period each day. Be sure the light is intense enough to allow the plant to grow flat without the leaves reaching upward. We would recommend that fluorescent lights on timers be used to guarantee day-to-day consistency and quality of light energy. This is needed if the large standard is going to continue to grow at a maximum rate. Provide a consistent water source. You may choose to wick-water, to use capillary matting, or to use any of a self watering pots or potting systems. Once-a-week watering may allow a fast growing violet to become too dry, thus slowing the rate of growth. The constant-water systems provide water on demand as well as raising humidity levels.

Provide good temperature controls. African violets prefer to have temperatures in the low 70's (Fahrenheit) during the day, with a slightly cooler temperature at night. If the large standard plant is in cooler conditions, it will have a slower growth rate and smaller size. Warmer temperatures will speed up the growth rate, but the plant may lose its compact quality and become leggy. It also may lose some of the sturdy vigor that the largest plants need to sustains outside rows of leaves.

Provide an excellent porous potting mix. All violets benefit from growing in a soil medium that provides adequate air space for developing roots while maintaining adequate moisture. If you are using a peat mixture, be sure it is the highest quality

Canadian peat that does not smear when rubbed between your fingers. Be sure the soil mixture remains loose around the roots. Avoid packing it down when repotting.

Potting Up

An African violet's root structure is small in comparison to the width of its leaf span. The most common wisdom is that the roots tend to be one-third of the diameter of the plant. The roots also grow to a shallow depth. Six-inch miniatures do well in two-inch pots. Standard African violets do well in four or five-inch squatty pots. If a large standard has grown to more than twenty inches, it probably needs a seven or eight inch pan pot to accommodate its root system.

There is an interesting twist to this, however. A large standard that is kept in a four-inch pot usually will not grow to its maximum genetic size. Since the root system has been confined and limited in size, the leaf span also will tend to be limited. It is the same principle that is used in bonsai to produce dwarf-sized plants. This principle is most often used in the growing of miniature African violets. By using exceedingly small containers a miniature can be dwarfed to a remarkably tiny size.

Since the object of our discussion does not involve dwarfing the large standards in any way, but rather to achieve maximum size, it is necessary to provide as much pot size as the roots are capable of filling.

Too much excess pot size could result in saturated soil around the roots. This may retard good healthy root growth or result in root rot, due to a lack of air in the soil. Too little space will slow the rate of growth in both the roots and the leaves. Timing the transplanting perfectly is a real art!

A young non-blooming plant will require a small pot. When the roots begin to develop into a root ball, becoming dense enough to hold shape when lifted out of the pot, the plant may safely be moved to the next size pot. This can happen fairly quickly with the large-growing hybrids. Pauline Bartholomew in her book, Growing to Show, recommends repotting these plants every two months into a pot that is one inch larger in diameter. Some top growers may be able to push this along faster, and some who are more cautious might wish to allow the plants three months before transplanting.

Fertilizing

It is also important to provide adequate nutrients to push a large standard violet along at its maximum growth rate. Again, it requires some skill to neither under-fertilize nor over-fertilize. Providing a constant source of African violet fertilizer with the watering system will provide the basic nutrients for everyday needs. Follow the directions on the package.

To achieve maximum size, it is helpful to provide extra support to the leaves with periodic foliar feeding. This is a process of misting a mild fertilizer solution directly onto the leaf surface. While other fertilizers can be used, we prefer to use fish emulsion for this process. Add about one sixteenth of a teaspoon of fish emulsion to a quart bottle of warm water, and lightly spray the foliage (avoid spraying until dripping wet).

It is best to do this early in the day, so that the plants will dry off before the usually cooler and more humid nighttime hours. Spraying late in the day could encourage the growth and spread of fungal diseases.

Foliar feeding should be done whenever the large standard plant is transplanted, and once or twice a month between transplanting. Many skilled show plant growers like to foliar feed as often as once a week during the last few weeks before a show.

Foliar feeding provides a quick absorption of nitrogen into the plant cells. The nitrogen is needed to build chlorophyll so that light can be processed into plant energy. When plants are very actively growing, additional nitrogen, provided through the leaf surface, will support the cells and allow them to continue growing at the most efficient rate.

Disbudding To Achieve Size

African violets tend to focus their energy on specific parts of the plant's anatomy at different times. When the plant is small, the focus is on root development and then leaf development. As the plant matures, the focus is on plant and flower development. If a seed pod were to set, the focus would be on the seed. When a grower prevents the development of buds and flowers, the energy is quite naturally redirected to the roots and the foliage.

This prevention of bud and flower development is done by disbudding. Growers disbud by removing the bud stem when it is quite small, before the flowers have opened. Buds can be gently prodded out with a dull tool, or clipped off with tiny scissors. Disbudding for four or five months will allow for a dramatic increase in a plant's size. The leaves will also become thicker and sturdier. Some growers prefer to disbud even longer, however the plant may develop a coarse appearance if the process goes on for too long. The plant has a maximum genetic size, and excessive disbudding will not cause the plant to grow beyond its genetic limitations.

Once disbudding is discontinued, the plant should come into heavy bloom within about eight weeks. Growers use this knowledge to time a plant to bloom for a specific show or occasion.

Maximum Size - Olympic Peak

The maximum size of an African violet can be compared to an athlete reaching a conditioning peak just in time for the Olympics. Athletes are conscious that they cannot sustain that peak for very long, so they must pace themselves and take excellent care of themselves especially as they near the competition. An African violet that is grown to its maximum size cannot keep a maximum head of bloom for more than a few weeks. It will begin to slow its growth rate and often the outside row of leaves will lose color and begin to fade. With good care it will maintain some of its size, and it may continue to bloom steadily but not with the overwhelming frenzy that occurs after disbudding has been completed.

Many growers use an ebb and flow technique of growing these large standards. They grow them to their maximum size and bloom, then remove outside leaves and the flowers and pot them down for a while. As they recover energy, the plant will again begin its growth spurt and the process begins all over again.

Love A Big Violet

You may be able to tell that we personally love the big violets. A massive African violet in full bloom is awe-inspiring to us. We know that we are not alone. It is often the big violets that attract attention at African violet shows, and the big violets that cause the public to want to try the hobby for themselves. Of course, the big violets take up lots of room. It can easily happen that only two of the large standards will fit under a four-foot fluorescent light fixture. Not many of us have that kind of room to spare. On the other hand, it only takes one big plant in full bloom to justify a family celebration of ability to grow magnificent African violets! Where else can you get so much acclaim for something a plant wanted to do anyway?

INTRODUCING YOUR 1996 NOMINEES TO THE AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doris Brownlie

Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

FOR DIRECTOR: Doris Brownlie of Mississauga, Canada, has been growing African violets for 24 years, has been a life member of AVSA since 1977 and a commercial member since 1982. She has attended nine conventions, and, as a senior judge, has assisted in the judging of four.

She is a charter member of the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, a member of the New York State Judges' Council and the Toronto African Violet Society. She is a commercial member, a director and Canadian members' representative of the New York State African Violet Society. For their 1987 Convention in Toronto she was the treasurer. She is a director and commercial coordinator for the African Violet Society of Canada, and has actively participated in the organizing of the two conventions held in Toronto. She is the show chairman for the 1997 Toronto convention. She is a charter member, and has been the secretary-treasurer of the AVSA Judges' Council-Ontario since 1981. She has been the chairman for several AVSA judging schools in the Toronto area. She has been a member of the Lakeshore African Violet Society of Toronto since 1975, and the treasurer since 1981. She is a senior gesneriad judge, is the treasurer of the Toronto Gesneriad Society, and she and her husband, John, travel widely, giving workshops on African violets and other gesneriads.

In 1993 she retired after teaching for 36 years in Australia, England and Canada. She now volunteers in a school, growing African violets with 5 different classes, tutors, travels often, knits for charity and helps John to hybridize, grow, show and sell African violets.

Alyce Droege

Maitland, Florida

FOR DIRECTOR: Alyce Droege of Maitland, Florida is a Life Member of AVSA, a Senior Judge and 1994 recipient of the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership. She is Past President of the African Violet Council of Florida and African Violet Association of Gardeners and has held many other offices and positions. Alyce is a Life Member of DAVS as well as a Director for two terms. She is also a member of MAAVS, Nutmegger, GSI, AGGS and Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society. Originally from Orlando, Florida, Alyce owns and operates African Violets by Florals of Fredericks in Maitland, hybridizes and speaks on African violets about fifty times a year. She has been married for thirty-six years and has one grown son.

Doreen Lay

Windsor, Connecticut

FOR DIRECTOR: Doreen Lay of Windsor, Connecticut has been a member of AVSA for 7 years, an AVSA judge for 4 years, and an avid African violet grower for 14 years. Her first "convention experience" was in Boston for one day—the very last day of convention—where she was impressed by the size and cultural perfection of the plants. Since then, she has attended the last three AVSA conventions.

Doreen is currently President of the Central Connecticut AVS, 2nd Vice President of Nutmeg State, and Secretary of Bay State Judges' Council. She is also an active member of Windsor AVS.

Doreen is a graduate of the University of Hartford where she received a B.A. degree in French Languages and Literatures and an M.S. in Organizational Behavior. Currently, she is employed at the University of Hartford as Director of Registration and Records and has held numerous work-related committee and task force positions, including a chairmanship. In addition, she belongs to professional registrar and admissions officer organizations ranging from the local to the national level and has just finished her term as President of the Connecticut Association of Collegiate Registrars.

Her husband, Dennis, waters her violets while she attends the conventions. They have one son, Jeremy.

Other hobbies (besides violets) include quilting and gardening.

Pat Richards

Olathe, Kansas

FOR DIRECTOR: Pat Richards of Olathe, Kansas became a member of AVSA in 1980, attended her first convention in 1989, holds the rank of advanced judge, and became a Life Member this year. She is the author of the "Small Thoughts" column for the AVM and serves on AVSA's Awards Committee.

She is a member of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council, serving as 2nd Vice President, is the immediate Past President of the Mid-America African Violet Society, and is Vice President of the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City.

Pat loves to exhibit plants and to encourage others to grow violets. While her St. Louis convention talk focused on how to grow minis and semis, she also grows standards and tries to grow the more challenging (to her) trailers and other gesneriads.

Pat earned undergraduate degrees in History and Political Science, and graduate degrees in Library Science and Law. Foregoing all of this, she is now a full time mother of Kate, Will and Zach. Her violet hobby provides a welcome relief from them, and vice-versa.

Catherine Thompson

Cedar Falls, Iowa

FOR DIRECTOR: Catherine R. Thompson of Cedar Falls, Iowa, has been a member of AVSA since 1985 and is a life member and a senior judge. She currently serves on the Boyce Edens Research Fund Committee. She has been a member of Dixie AV Society and the Violet Patch of Broward County, which she served as newsletter editor. She is now a member of Missouri Valley AV Council and a founding member and former president of Cedar Valley Violet Club.

Catherine has a PhD in entomology from the University of Florida with a minor in botany and has published 26 scientific papers. Her husband, Dave, is an engineer.

As a hobby she has had for 20 years, Catherine grows about 300 African violets and other gesneriads, especially sinningias. She points out that usually mothers get daughters hooked on violets, but Catherine got her mother hooked on them - - her mother now has about 600 violets! She and her mother have enjoyed going to AVSA conventions together for six years.

Welcome to Canada's Capital

You are invited to attend the 29th Annual Convention of the African Violet Society of Canada to be held in Ottawa, Ontario from May 9 to 11,1996

Ottawa, the city of festivals, is located in south eastern Ontario close to the New York State border. It is a modern and cosmopolitan city, located on the mighty Ottawa river which takes its name from the Algonquin Indian tribe, the Odawa who settled and traded furs in the area.

At the center of Ottawa is Parliament Hill. Convention delegates can visit the House of Commons, the Senate and other historic sites. Ottawa also boasts one of the finest collections of cultural attractions in the world! Twelve national museums, including the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the National Gallery of Canada, and the National Arts Centre.

Springtime blankets the city in color, with budding trees lining the riverside parkways, and the blossoming tulips in all colors. The annual tulip Festival has grown and developed over the years, and today the Capital displays more than 3 million tulips. Some beds contain over 30,000 bulbs. During the month of May, the display of tulips stretches nearly 7 miles along the famous Rideau Canal from Major's Hill Park just behind the Parliament Buildings to Dow's Lake and the Central Experimental Farm. Convention delegates will be offered a special bus tour of the city and the tulip beds as well as a walking tour of historic downtown Ottawa. Great shopping opportunities are also available.

For further information please contact our show chairman - Bob McCabe. 769 Holt Crescent, Ottawa. Ontario K1G 2Y5 phone (613) 737-3793.

SEND YOUR CHOICES

FLOYD LAWSON • 110 W. Huntington Dr., #21 • Arcadia, CA 91007

Every year our best growers and hybridizers advise beginning, and even experienced, growers to check the Best Varieties List for the surest and most consistent plants to add to their collections. The advice is good, because the Best Variety List is the compilation of those varieties which have performed across the nation, in the many different growing conditions, and with many different approaches to growing. The Best Variety List is YOUR list of those plants which have done the best for YOU.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites? Which would you encourage others to buy and grow?

Between now and May 1, 1996, every member of AVSA should take time to sit down and make a list of 25 of your favorite plants. We would like to have every member's opinion. The lists may be sent singly, or as a part of an affiliate's summary.

If you do decide to make only one list for the club, list all plants voted on and how many votes each received.

Also, enclose the total number of members voting, as well as the name of the affiliate.

Please send your list to:

Floyd Lawson
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

If you tried to pollinate flowers following the suggestions made in the last issue, you might have questions about what is the next step in the production of new plants. A few tips about the seed pods and seed maturation include the following:

1. Keep the plant healthy and free of fungal diseases such as powdery mildew. Any stress on the plant from diseases and pests may cause the seed pods to abort.
2. Follow your regular watering and fertilization schedule, but watch for over watering which may encourage the growth of molds.
3. It is permissible to allow the plant to keep blooming. Flower production does not seem to affect the seed pods and seed maturation.
4. Allow the seed pods to dry completely. This can be done on the plant or you can remove the seed pods when they start to dry and move them to a warm dry place to finish the process.
5. The seed pods must remain on the plant a minimum of four months. Pods that dry before this time will probably not contain viable seed.
6. Seeds can be planted anytime after the seed pods have fully dried. Seed pods may be stored dry in a small container for several months before planting.
7. Seeds can be stored for several years if they are left in the seed pod and placed in a container with a little bag of silica gel to help keep them dry. Storing the container in a refrigerator will add to the storage life.

Q: *Are there any flower colors that are so "dominant" that they will always be produced in the first generation?*

A: Yes, there are, but it does depend somewhat on which colors you are crossing together. The dark blues and purple colors are the most dominant and will always be produced in the first generation. Reds are dominant to the lighter colors of pink and white, but will be hidden by the blues. Yellows appear to be recessive to most other colors, but could be a dominant when crossed to white.

Be careful about drawing conclusions about "dark" colors being dominant to "light" colors. Blues and reds can exist as pale shades which may appear to be light colors, but these would be inherited as dominants when crossed to dark pinks. It's the actual pigment that counts, not the shade of the pigment.

Q: *Most African Violets are labeled as trailer or rosette types, but can intermediate forms exist as well?*

A: Yes, it is possible that some plants are between our usual definitions of a trailer and a rosette. The species plant *Saintpaulia intermedia* would be a good example. This species shows a rosette style of growth when small, but tends to develop a stronger trailing habit as it matures. Other species plants such as Sigi Falls have appeared to be "weak" trailers. Their internodes (stems between the leaves) are long enough to be noticeable, but not long enough to give the best trailing habit. Some plants identified as "trailers" really grow more as a multiple stem upright bush. The distinction on what makes a trailer is not always clear and often depends on the hybridizer's description of the plant.

Q: *Why did you choose not to call your plant 'Tomorrow's Sunrise' a yellow? Mine has developed yellow centers in every bloom.*

A: 'Tomorrow's Sunrise' is from a breeding program that included yellows as part of the ancestry. The first blooms on the plant did not always develop what I considered to be a strong yellow color. Because the plant didn't live up to my standards, I declined to describe it as a "yellow".

Q: *Is the amount of bloom that a plant produces genetically inherited?*

A: Yes, I feel that the amount of bloom that a plant produces is genetically inherited. I've noticed that some plants from a cross will produce twice as many flowers as their siblings, even when grown under the same conditions. I've seen plants with bud counts as high as 38 on a single bloom stalk. These are the plants that hybridizers usually want to select for and keep in their breeding programs.

The number of flowers a plant produces is also influenced by the environment. If the plant is not given adequate light and fertilizer, it will never produce a high number of blooms. Your best option for show is to select a plant that has the genetic potential for a high number of blooms, then give it optimal growing conditons. The combination of environment and genetic potential will usually be a winning one.

Q: *Is there a trick in selecting the best cultivars to grow?*

A: Every grower will have their personal favorites and the reasons they select these cultivars over others will vary from person to person. Some people tend to favor certain colors and others, certain bloom or plant types. I like to keep a variety of flower and plant types in my collection so I can appreciate the rich diversity that African violets offer.

One "trick" that I've heard experienced growers discuss is to select a hybridizer who lives in a similar climate to yours. Plants that these individuals develop will generally do well for you because the plants were bred and selected under a climate similar to your own.

Another "trick" is to follow the show results reported in this magazine to see which plants are consistent winners. This will indicate a strong performance record for these cultivars. Another possibility is to see which plants are named to the Best Varieties List each year. These plants are also strong performers and have grown well for many individuals.

Yet another method is to only grow those plants that have performed well for you at show. Dr. Richard Nicholas, who has spoken at several national conventions including the 1995 at St. Louis, only keeps those plants that have grown well for show. His philosophy is that he doesn't have the time or the space to work with inferior plants and he quickly removes those not performing from his collection.

The final decision of which plants to grow will be with you. Why not grow those that you enjoy, but keep looking for that "perfect" cultivar.

AVSA Booster Fund

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 16 AUGUST - 15 SEPTEMBER

Hans & Everdina Inpijn, Laguna Hills, CA. In memory of Marna Striepens	$25.00
Anonymous, Waco, TX	10.00
Mrs. Betty Tapping, Ontario, Canada In fond memory of a dear friend, Sylvia Saalmans	25.00
Edgar & Thelma Henrick, Union City, CA	5.00
AVS of North Jersey, Clifton, NJ	10.00
Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI	10.00
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Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Springs, CO	10.00
Union County Chapter, AVSA, Scotch Plains, NJ	25.00
Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA	25.00
Quad City AVS, Davenport, IOWA	50.00
Northern California Council of AVS	25.00
Donald & Frances Olson, Rush City, MN	10.00
	Total: 250.00

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Ruth Warren • 1534 Robeson • Fall River, MA 02720

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM JULY '95 - AUGUST '95

Octavio Quero Mendoza	$1.50
Irene C. Britton	18.00
Fay Thomas	10.50
Ann Gramasroff	10.00
Michael Olsen	5.55
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Billie (Mary) Rice (memory of Dorothy Kahrman)	10.00
AVSA of Staten Island (memory of Flora Seaman by Dave Tooker, Jan Muraski, in lieu of judges)	10.00
	Total: $98336.76

Thinking Small

Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004

In the last column we distinguished small violets from the standards. Now that we have identified these differences we can discuss how to grow them differently, beginning with our system of watering.

United We Stand?

Our first dilemma is whether to use common watering (i.e. matting, using egg crating with a common reservoir) or individual watering (wicking or individual watering). First, common watering offers numerous advantages, such as convenience, speed, and added humidity. It should not be discounted if time is of the essence to you. However, along with the good comes the bad: not only does a common system offer shared water but shared bugs, diseases and other pathogens. If you are going to use this system, be prepared to accept the consequences.

Because of the interest I have in showing plants, it is beneficial to me to to use individual watering. Thus, I am forced to slow down when watering, take each and every plant off the shelf, review it's performance and assess it's needs. Obviously this takes a lot more time, but it is worth it. Problems are spotted much sooner, needs are addressed earlier, and of course, those performing well are placed back into prime growing areas. If lack of humidity is a problem, all containers can be placed on pebble trays filled with water, or placed on egg crating with water trays below. The ultimate choice of style is up to you, but if optimum performance is your goal, I highly recommend individual watering.

Back To Nature?

In their natural habitat, plants are watered from top to bottom: the rain falls and soaks into the soil to reach the roots. Thus, the natural way to water our violets is to water them from the top although this is not very practical for most of us. First, it is extremely time consuming as the plants must be watered at least weekly. Second, this method requires extreme caution to prevent damaging the leaves and crown with water.

This is not to say this method is without great benefit. One advantage is a natural leaching effect: just as the rain leaches fertilizers through the soil, top watering leaches harmful fertilizer salts through your violet's soil. This explains one of the reasons it is so important to remove the runoff 15 minutes after watering. The second advantage is the caring and dedication required to water in this manner. Very few of us have this type of time, energy and enthusiasm, but for those who do, the results are great: Ralph Robinson of Rob's Mini-o-Lets and Kathy Lahti, whose outstanding "Beginner's Luck" won second best in show in St. Louis, both use this natural method to water their small violets.

And Now, For The Rest Of Us...

Then there's the rest of us, with our jobs, our clubs, our family, and other hobbies, or those of us who think we need to grow hundreds of plants! We can't use the natural method, lest we spend the rest of our lives watering our plants, so we choose a more expedient manner. Since I've already eliminated matting, that leaves wicking from a reservoir. This method allows us the luxury of individualized attention, yet we are able to go two to three weeks between waterings and maintain a certain degree of safety.

To wick our plants, we will need 100% synthetic cord. It can be yarn, fishing seine, parachute cord or whatever else is available to you as long as it's 100% synthetic! Anything else will eventually rot. Another feature that is nice but not necessary is the ability to easily split the cord into finer segments. Thus, the wick can be adjusted for tiny plantlets or mature plants. The wick should be at least four or five inches long, just long enough to maintain good contact with the soil in the pot and then to extend down to the bottom of your reservoir.

Thick Wicks?

Now, I have a strange theory about the thickness of the wicks needed. I believe the thickness of the wick is dependent on the weight of your soil and the amount of soil the wick is in contact with. In other words, if you use very light and porous soil, you could use a thicker wick. If you place the wick only across the bottom of your pot so it does not touch much soil, you can use a thicker wick. But, if your soil is heavy, and/or you bring the wick way up into the soil, you will need a thinner wick. (Don't try to read this paragraph aloud: it's a great candidate for tongue twister heaven!)

The main concept here is one of the beauties of the

wicking system: the plant draws up the water only when it needs it! Theoretically it improves nature's system, where the plant goes through cycles of wet and dry, and allows for more even, luxuriant growth. It is also a lot easier for you because you're only required to water every second or third week.

Your Plant Room Grocery Store

Containers used for wicking the small ones range from baby food jars to margarine tubs, with my favorite being yogurt cups. The baby food jars hold 2 1/8″ to 2 1/4″ pots nicely plus allows you the advantage of monitoring the level of the water. Yogurt cups and margarine tubs are used for 2″ pots. Two holes are cut in the tops of their lids: the first to allow the wick to fall into the water, the second to allow for overflow when refilling the reservoir.

Now, before you have a baby just so you can replenish your supply of baby food jars (like I did), these are readily available at garage sales, from daughters, daughters-in-law, or neighbors who have babies, etc. I also have the luxury of having three kids who love yogurt (can't imagine why?). Whatever your source, make sure these containers are cleaned, sterilized with a weak chlorox solution and rinsed thoroughly before submitting them to your violets.

We're Not Through Yet

Just as we're concerned about the pH of our soil we should be equally concerned about the pH of our water. It does us little good to perfect the soil pH if we then turn around and water it with highly acid or alkaline water. You can call your water department to get you pH level or purchase a cheap tester for around $5.00 that will give you adequate results. Once you've established the pH of your water, it can be easily adjusted with hydroponic solutions available from garden supply stores, hydroponic suppliers, etc.

Likewise we cannot ignore the danger chlorine additives have on our violets. For this reason it is important to let water set at least overnight to allow the chlorine to evaporate and also to let the water come to room temperature. As to the latter, watering with too cold water will result in brown or gold spots developing on the leaves.

A final thought hinges on that beloved green stuff that grows on the sides of the reservoirs known as algae. Many of us believe algae to be so horrible that we place additives in our water to eliminate the horrid stuff. Well, one fine grower I'm sure you're all familiar with believes that these additives, in addition to halting algae growth, have a detrimental effect on our violet's growth. So, Kent Stork resists using algaecides in his violet's water, and if it's bad enough for Kent, then it's bad enough for me.

So if you can't stand algae what can you do? Well, any reservoir that is not transparent will hinder the development of the stuff fairly well. If you insist on using transparent containers consider painting the containers black. Other than that, you can pride yourself on your frequently washed reservoirs or simply tolerate the slimy stuff.

'Nuf Said

Now that we're all experts on water and watering systems, we can look forward to our next subject: fertilizing the small ones. See you then!

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • P.O. Box 38 • Oreland, PA 19075-0038

Donations received from July 20, 1995 - September 20, 1995:

Moonlight AVS, Fort Worth, TX	$10.00
Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA	25.00
NASA AVS, League City, TX	25.00
AVSA Judges Council of Southern CA	10.00
In memory of our dear member Marna Striepens	
Orange County AVS, Fullerton, CA	25.00
In memory of Marna Striepens	
Robert Jacob Lubinski, New Brighton , PA	25.00
In memory of my wife Patricia Lubinski	
AVS of Kentuckiana, Louisville, KY	25.00
In lieu of a speaker's fee to Richard Nicholas	
Connie L. Leifeste, Waco, TX	10.00
Saintpaulia Society of Long Island, Long Beach, NY	5.00
Catherine Luse, Billings, MT	5.00
Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL	50.00
Town & Country AVC, Minot, ND	5.00
In memory of Armida Waller	
Quad City AVS, Moline, IL	50.00
In lieu of travel expenses for Martha Compton	
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The Le Chateau AVC, St. Louis, MO	20.00
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Kerry W. Brookman, El Cerrito, CA	20.00
Annie Belle Perry, Trenton, NJ	10.00

Question Box

James Smith
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209

Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

Happy new year! With the arrival of each new year comes the arrival of the newest varieties of violets. Now's the time to request the latest catalog from the commercial growers. Even if you never order plants, these serve as excellent reference sources. Many sellers produce catalogs with very detailed descriptions or, better yet, color pictures. Like back issues of the AVM, it's nice to look through the old catalogs that I've saved over the years.

Again, though I don't mind receiving mail, don't count on my sending you a reply—I've simply got too much paperwork already. That said, I will gladly accept phone calls during weekday business hours (don't call Jim), since I can easily chat and work at the same time.

QUESTION: *Should I premoisten soil when I repot?*

ANSWER: I prefer to. To begin with, premoistened soil is much easier to work with, since it clings together somewhat and can be 'molded' in the pot. It's also less messy since it's less 'dusty'—you also won't be inhaling this. Moisten the soil the night before, using hot water. I use 1 gallon of water to 5 gallons of soil mix.

I've also found it best to repot plants from moist (not soggy) soil into moist soil. After repotting, water only **very lightly**. Until the repotted plant can establish roots in the added soil, it needs **less** water than before. This may take 2 or 3 weeks. If your violet appears wilted even when the soil is moist, then you may have overwatered.

QUESTION: *My violet has three plants in the pot. How do I divide it?*

ANSWER: Unless this is a trailing variety, an African violet should never be grown with more than one crown. More on that in a moment. To divide the plant, remove the excess, older, leaves from each of the crowns. Locate where the individual 'plants' are growing from. Try gently pulling the plants apart with your hands. If this isn't possible, find a sharp knife and cut through the common central stem to separate the plants, leaving as much stem and rootball as possible for each plant. Once separated, the plants can be potted into their own pots.

Having said that, it's best never to let extra crowns develop in the first place. 'Suckers' are the beginnings of additional crowns seen in the leaf axils as pairs of small leaves, with no evidence of flower buds. Remove these **immediately**. This can be done easily with any sharp, pointed instrument. If left alone, these small suckers will soon become large plants. Removing them will not only produce a more attractive plant, but will encourage more blooming. If your violet can't reproduce itself by growing additional crowns, it will try to by producing flowers. Usually, once a violet matures and begins blooming, the suckering will cease.

QUESTION: *I have one African violet. Some divisions bloom a solid purple and others bloom purple and white. What causes this to happen?*

ANSWER: If 'divisions' means crowns, refer to the preceding question and answer. As for the different flower colors, this is the consequence of both genetics and environment. Not knowing the variety, I assume this is a violet that is genetically a multicolor. Instability, unfortunately, is the price we pay for having varieties in such color combinations. Environment also plays a role, since distressed plants tend to be more unstable. By this I mean excessively warm, dry, or toxic conditions.

To limit the instability, propagate from plants that themselves are stable. When selecting leaves to root, here's a hint: light-colored leaves tend to produce plants with light-colored blooms, darker leaves produce darker blooms. Since heavily multicolored varieties often have leaves with darker mottling, you can make this choice. This mottling will look like a 'birthmark' on the leaf. As for the environment, avoid excessive heat or dryness. This is why so many multicolor blooms become solid during the

summer months. Overuse of fertilizers or insecticides can also cause instability .

QUESTION: *I grow my violets 15˝ below 4-tube fixtures. The lights are on 12-16 hours a day. On some plants the center leaves look crowded and a little hard, but I'm not sure if this is due to too much light or not.*

ANSWER: This may indeed be the result of too much light, particularly for standard-size varieties. I find that most of the standard varieties I grow do best when about 16˝ below a 2-tube fixture (measured bulb to leaf surface), 13 hours a day. Of course, your 4-tube fixture will produce twice this much light, more than is necessary. This is particularly true for those varieties with wavy, ruffled, or girl leaves which, by their nature, tend to crowd in the center. For years I had a difficult time growing certain standards into nice showplants, having the same problems with the foliage. The hybridizer of these varieties then told me that she grew her showplants 18˝ below the lights. Since then, I've been able to grow these plants beautifully at this greater distance.

For miniatures (and semiminiatures), this is less of a problem, since they seem to like somewhat brighter light. I grow mine 10˝ below the lights. Though this is a bit farther from the lights than most grow their minis, I seem to have no problem getting them to bloom almost constantly.

QUESTION: *Please tell me what the definition is of 'stick-tite' and 'wasp'.*

ANSWER: These terms are used to describe certain types of blossoms. 'Sticktite' blooms are those that do not drop from the pedicel (blossom stem). This is often a problem with single (5-petalled) blossoms that frequently fall from the pedicel, even while still fresh. Usually this is not a problem with semidouble and double blossoms. Often, blossoms that appear to be single are, in fact, semidouble blossoms where the extra petal is difficult to see. Though genetically semidouble, these are often described as 'stick-tite' single blossoms.

'Wasp' refers to single blossoms that have separate, very narrow petal lobes. Few of these varieties are still widely grown, since blooms tend to be smaller and not be 'stick-tite'.

QUESTION: *I recently visited an African violet show. Many of the violets displayed there were very large, perhaps 18˝ across or so. Mine have never gotten that large. Can you explain why?*

ANSWER: First, keep in mind that these are **showplants**. A prize-winning plant is the result of good culture and plenty of TLC. Serious exhibitors also usually grow those varieties that make the best showplants—i.e. large, symmetrical foliage and heavy bloom.

The most important factor, however, is probably disbudding. My large showplants have been disbudded (not allowed to bud or bloom) continually from about 6 months (or more) to about 10 weeks prior to the show. During this time, all of the plant's energy goes into foliage growth, not blossom production. As a result, the leaves grow much larger. While large showplants are often grown in pots (shallow) 6˝ pots or larger, my violets that aren't going to show do quite well in 4˝ pots, where they continue to bloom and grow to about 10˝ to 12˝ in diameter. Most exhibitors also use leaf supports or "rings", which go underneath the outer row of leaves and keep them from bending down over the rim of the pot. This ensures that the leaves are held flat, and are exposed to the maximum amount of light, which promotes more vigorous growth. Besides these differences, culture is the same in virtually every other way.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print

REQUEST FOR COMMERCIAL ADS in SOUVENIR BOOK

Place your ad in the 1996 Souvenir Book for the Atlanta Convention. Send your present ad, a business card, or a line drawing which will be photocopied. Please state the size of the ad being requested. The rates are:

Full page	$75	1/4 page	$35
1/2 page	$45	1/8 page	$25

Send to:
Ed Holst, P.O. Box 4871, Macon, GA 31208

Please include your company's name, address and phone number, along with your check payable to AVSA Convention Fund by March 1, 1996.

THIS AD IS BEING PLACED IN LIEU OF THE USUAL LETTER THAT IS SENT OUT YEARLY IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE POSTAGE.

Shows & Judges

Bill Foster
3610 Gray Dr.
Mesquite, TX 75150

Happy New Year! Can you believe that 1996 is already here and it is time to start making plans for the trip to Atlanta? For some this will be more like a pilgrimage as they return to the site of the first AVSA Convention that took place a half century ago. I am anxious to see how many of those first "conventioneers" will be in attendance to help celebrate this special event.

This convention, hopefully, will be a double treat for me. It is always a great joy to see and visit with old friends from all over the world and to meet new friends each year. I also hope to see a couple of very special "old friends"...**Jack and Barbara Stringer**, who live in Marietta. Jackie became my best friend when we met in fourth grade and was best man at our wedding. A month later I was his best man. I have known Barbara since mid-teens. We only see each other every five or six years at school reunions. Perhaps they will come and see our beautiful show and see what our AVSA world is like!

Be sure to notice, to honor our golden anniversary, we have included classes for **"Vintage Violets"**. This gives you a good opportunity to show off some of those cultivars that you have kept through the years. You will find all the convention information in this issue.

Please send your reservations in early. Advanced, senior, and master judges wishing to judge, and student judges and AVSA members wishing to clerk, should send their requests right away. Judges, be sure to join us at the Judges Breakfast. We can enjoy the fellowship while we eat and then we will attempt to answer any questions you have. Teachers, I'll be looking forward to seeing you at our Teachers Breakfast so we can discuss our experiences over the past year.

Please correct the judges list from the September 1995 African Violet Magazine to show Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112 as a senior judge. Also add Peggy Adamson, 1613 Hampton Ave., Nashville, TN 37207-4309 as a judge and Sylvia Siegel, 11 Saint Marys Lane, Norwalk, CT 06851 as a student judge. Many of you have become student judges since the list was printed. You will be added next year. Many of you are shown who are no longer judges. Unless you renew your judge's certificate you will be deleted next year. Always check the list and let us know if we have omitted your name. First, be sure you have a current judge's certificate and a current AVSA membership. We try to leave the judges on the list whose certificates expire in August or September, especially if there is a judging school in your area, but if you don't renew you will be dropped the next year. If you are having a show and are not sure if some of the judges in your area have a current certificate you can either check with me or just request to see their current certificate. Our rules state that we should always be able to show a valid certificate if requested to do so.

I hope to see all of you in Atlanta as we celebrate **"Fifty Golden Years With Violets"**.

Cathy and Al Cornibe are doing a great job in reporting "And the Winners Are". To make their job a little easier they need our help. Last year they received a number of show reports with incorrect information. They have received reports that show a miniature has won the Best Semiminiature, semiminiatures winning Best Miniature, unregistered plants winning AVSA Collections, especially in the species collections, and almost anything winning Best Trailer even if the MVL shows it as a single crowned plant! This seems to say that we need to be more responsible.

First, as exhibitors, we should be responsible enough to check our entries before we take them to the show. As classification committee members, we need to double check to verify the exhibitor's classification. A lot of judges will argue that it is not their place to detect errors made by the classification committee. If you are a judge and feel this way I suggest you review the Handbook for some of the duties and rights of a judge.

We are supposed to "eliminate from consideration for an award" any entry that does not conform to the schedule and AVSA rules. That means things such as wrong size, which would be the case of a mini winning Best Semiminiature. Wrong type, which would mean a single crowned variety winning Best Trailer. This could also cover unregistered plants in AVSA Collections. I have been judging for over 20 years and have **ALWAYS** checked the registration numbers for accuracy on AVSA Collections. I sure wouldn't wish to have my signature on the AVSA Collection form if a variety did not even show a registration or an identification number.

Let's try to make things easier for Cathy and Al in 1996.

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674

When this endeavor was started, in November of 1993, I had no idea it would mushroom into something this big. We now have over 4000 listings of the older varieties! Thanks to all of you the following plants have reappeared in circulation; Ashes of Roses (Mahr), Blue Girl, Blue Ice, Calico Blue Trail (Rod Lowe of Arizona, your mail was returned to me as undeliverable), Cherry Cooler, Fire and Brimstone, Fire N'Ice, Granger's Mexicali Rose, Little Stormy, Miriam Steele, Ness' Night Life (a newer variety that somehow found it's way on this list) Outrage, Pink Illusion, Pink N'Ink, Rhapsodie GiGi, Rose Triumph, Sleeping Beauty (all the way from Africa), Suzi Q, Sweet Lime, Tiger Eyes, Whif-O-Green (thank you, Paul), White Lady, Wrangler's Banjo Dancin', Wrangler's Mountain Mama and Wrangler's Winter Holiday. Many thanks to all of you who responded.

I received requests for Yellow Brown Girl and was able to supply several of them to anxious growers. I have one more waiting to be shipped to Mexico as soon as I hear from Mary Aruda. Are you still there Mary?

I won't be able to publish the entire AVSA MOST WANTED LIST again but I can list the newer ones that came in this month. Please refer to your September-October issue of the AVM for the others.

This issue's MOST WANTED are listed below, with the hybridizer's name:

Autumn Russet, Eyerdom
Big Daddy, Sorano
Confessions, unknown
Fantasy in White, unknown
Little Lou, Lyon
Lyndy Lou, Reinhardt
Mary, unknown
Mighty Mini, D. Adams
Red Carnation, Vallin
Rhapsodie Michelle, Holtkamp
Shady Lady, Lyon
Snow Drops, Elkin
Tipt, Tinari
Wrangler's Painted Desert, Smith
Ballet Ulli, Fischer
Black Waves, Vallin
Double Blue Boy, Westside
Holly Go Lightly, Baker
Little Rascal, Lyon
Mandolin, Harris
Mary Ann, Smith
Millie Blair, Eyerdom
Reverie, Rita Luciano
Rosy Lou, unknown
Silver Anniversary, Coleman
Spiced Peach, Baker
Wrangler's Ghost Rider, Smith
Wrangler's Wanderin' Star, Smith

The hot hybridzers at this time are Baker, Dates or Smith's Wrangler series. Do you have them? Let me hear from you soon.

Greetings To All Affiliates

It is time to start a new year - a new year of African violet friendships, news and growth for our clubs. And we want to start out on the right foot at the first meeting.

We all know how great it is to see our African violet friends again. But it is time to invite new people, friends, and neighbors to come to our club meetings and to warmly greet each and every visitor. A warm reception and a friendly atmosphere can encourage our guests to learn more about our violets and to return to future meetings and join our clubs. It is possible that those visitors may become members of AVSA, may one day be local club officers or maybe even serve on the national board. We all started out as visitors and grew like our African violets. Let's invite new folks and reach out to our visitors.

Bev Promersberger
Vice Chairman
Membership and Promotion Committee

A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Streptocarpus Cyanandrus

Margaret Cass presented me with this tiny plant during a fun visit in Philadelphia. The entire plant was barely covering one-half the diameter of the 3″ Solo cup. It has been blooming since it was about 2″ wide. The blooms emerge from the center of the two leaves, which seem to be united instead of having individual petiolodes.

Streptocarpus cyanandrus (strep-toe-CAR-pus sign-an-AN-drus) has huge flowers for such a small plant. The word cyanandrus usually means dark blue but these one-inch flowers are pink-lavender. B. L. Burtt found it growing in Rhodesia at an elevation of 7000 feet. This indicates that the plant likes cool temperatures. My plant grows on the bottom light shelf. Unless one can mist it five times a day, terrarium culture is highly recommended. I've read that the bloom coloring has stripes but mine is so pastel the stripes seem to blend together. The heat of the summer has probably done that. Remember that color pigmentation is lighter grown in heat and darker or more intense when the temperatures are cooler. This little Strep does not need a lot of light, 500 footcandles is adequate. Go easy on fertilizer, too. Seeds are available from the AGGS seed fund. Look for their membership ad in the AVM.

TEMPERATURES

Just wanted to mention how important temperatures are for gesneriads. Most of them can't use fertilizer below 63° or above 85°. Never spray or mist with foliage food or pesticides when temperatures are above or below these degrees. Most gesneriads resent cool temperatures, especially *Episcia* and *Achimenes*. If you are comfortable in the growing area, your plants will be fine.

NEEM

Thank you, Nadine Parsons, for sending a wonderful letter about using Bioneem, the pesticide from the neem tree. What a coincidence that 'Nadine' was my favorite AV hybrid from Rev. Parson, remember that lovely plant? Getting back to the subject at hand, she also enclosed a very informative article from the May/June 1993 issue of National Gardening magazine. She has been very successful keeping thrips away by using Bioneem concentrate as directed on the label and also spraying with Schultz Insecticide, which is a pyrethrum. These two things will give great control of both the young and mature thrips. She also removed all of the flower buds. Her plants are in her home and she must use the safest methods possible.

Nadine has used this soil mix for some 15 years: 1/2 part vermiculite, 1/2 part perlite and 1 quart horticultural charcoal to each 12 quarts of mix. Notice that there is no moss in this, which, in my amateur opinion, probably means that there is no possibility of soil mealybug. She uses a weak fertilizer weekly. Her fertilizer is Rapid Gro with Superthrive. (Rapid Gro is no longer available in my area, hope it is coming back.) During the hot, hot summer she gives her plants 1/4 teaspoon of Chelated Iron, which does not seem to affect her variegated plants. Her temperatures stay around 80°.

The neem concentrate has a shelf life of about 18 months. Mix only the amount that you can use in a few hours. It does not keep well. The spray will remain for only a week. Applications may be made at 10 to 7 day intervals. Read and heed all labels. Neem is available from Cape Cod Violetry.

Inquiries about the neem article may be sent to:
National Gardening, 180 Flynn Ave.
Burlington, VT. 05401.

ACHIMENES

This summer brought the most awful growing conditions for the achimenes baskets. Weeks of drought and very high heat. Usually, heat does not bother them, but I just could not keep them watered even when using moisture retaining polymers. Now, we have had an early frost and they were zapped into brown droop. When night temperatures dip to 55° they should be brought inside. If they have not bloomed well, I place them under fluorescent light so that they can produce flowers which in turn will produce rhizomes. They do like more light than African violets.

Where's the HEAT?

by Leslie Cox
Newbury Park, CA

Finally, everything is ready. The greenhouse is assembled, the floor is in place and the stands are set up. There is just one small problem to take care of. I had a fan system to keep the greenhouse cool in summer, but now winter was coming and repeat checks of the thermometer had already shown me that even double glazing was not going to keep the greenhouse warm enough when the nights dropped below 60°.

I had checked out the possibility of using a small heater and having someone splice in a thermostat, but the people I had spoken to had warned me that even a little heater would be quite expensive to operate.

There had to be some way to keep my violets warm that I could afford. Then, I remembered something I had discovered while working in the greenhouses where I attended college. Along one wall inside the first greenhouse, was a raised seed bed covered with a plastic 'mist tent'. It had a heat cable buried in the sand and was used by the students to start plant cuttings. What I had noticed was that no matter how cool the greenhouse got during the winters it was always much warmer inside that plastic tent because of the heat cable.

I knew that Indoor Gardening Supplies offered a heat cable for a reasonable price and that it operated at a low enough wattage, making it about as expensive to run as an electric blanket. I ordered one and when it arrived, I decided that since I was trying to warm air instead of soil, to suspend the cable from the plant stand frame where I would normally hang lights using electricians tape.

Once the heat cable was in place, I enclosed the plant stand in its plastic 'tent' and plugged the heat cable in that night to test it. When I checked the thermometer next morning - IT HAD WORKED! The outside temperature read 55°, but inside the enclosed stand it was 60°! No matter how cold the nights got that winter, those violets stayed at 60°.

Now, I am about to start my second winter of keeping violets in my greenhouse. I have a second plant stand in there now with its own heat cable and plastic tent. The nights are cold enough I am using the heat cables and the violets are staying at 60°F even though we have had two nights down to 49°. If anyone is looking for a good way to keep just your plant stand warm, I highly recommend this one!

Registration Report

Iris Keating
149 Loretto Ct.
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs $1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00. Registration of the plant is $5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then $4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA
***MAGIC PARASOL** (8291) 9/13/95 (N. Johnston)
Semidouble white large sticktite star/purple eye, wide edge; variable thin blue streak. Medium green, ovate, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

*****

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
***BOB SERBIN** (8292) 9/21/95 (J. Brownlie)
Semidouble red sticktite pansy/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Daphne Snell - Pukekohe, New Zealand
(Each of the following is preceded by the name Kiwi)
* Bright Spark * Dark Velvet * Galaxy * Glow Baby
* Heartbeat * Magic * Mischief * Red Perfection
* Southern Cross * Starbright

NAME RESERVATION RENEWALS

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA
* School Bells

*****

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA
* Hodge Podge * Little Dewdrop * Robin's Nest
* Rosebud Fantasy * Saucy Missy * Silver Eagle
* Stormy Clouds * Stripes 'n' Spatters * Summer Storm

How To Plant A Leaf

"What do I do with this leaf when I get home?" A frequently asked question about starting violets from leaves.

1) Recut the stem, diagonally, 1/2" to 1" from the bottom of the leaf (front side) with a sharp knife or razor blade. Plantlets develop from the cut end of the petiole (stem).

2) Place the entire leaf in tepid water 2 hours before potting.

3) Label a small 2" - 3" diameter pot with the plant name and date. Small plastic drinking cups with holes punched in the bottom work well.

4) Fill the pot with damp soil mix; a mixture of 1/2 peat and 1/2 perlite and/or vermiculite is ideal. You may use any commercial potting mix for African violets. Pack it down firmly, and water with fertilizer solution (1/4 tsp. fertilizer to 1 gallon of water).

5) Poke a 1/4" hole in moistened soil. Insert the stem into the soil so that the mix is almost up to the bottom of the leaf and firm the soil around the stem.

6) Place potted leaf in a ziplock bag or plastic shoe box with lid; keep humidity high.

7) Place under lights or in a window, but don't put in direct sunlight -- **they will cook!**

8) Water using regular ferilizer solution. Do not allow the soil to dry out. Keep moist at all times.

9) Leaves may be started directly in zip-lock bags in a small amount of potting soil. The soil should be moist but not wet. These leaves may be left in the bags for a few weeks, but should be put into a small 2" or 2 1/2" pot before the plantlets get crowded.

10) If several small plantlets emerge [some leaves will produce from 5 to 15 plantlets], remove the weaker ones and leave two or three on the "mother" leaf until they have four nickel size leaves. They should then be gently pulled apart and placed in their own 2" pots.

11) Plantlets will start to appear in about 6 weeks; some varieties take longer.

12) If the "mother" leaf continues to grow, cut the top of the leaf off so the leaf energy goes to the plantlets.

Reprinted with permission from "The Blooming Violet" Publication of the Cedar Valley AVC, Cedar Valley, IA

Thrips are IN!

Janet Bandy
P.O. Box 39063
North Ridgeville, OH 44039-0063
(216) 353-9437

That's Right! Thrips are in almost everything this year! There is a very good possibility that thrips have become resistant to almost all pesticides to which they have been exposed.....except their natural enemies. They do have some very effective natural enemies, and I would like to introduce them to you, but first here are some facts about thrips.

Thrips do not need to mate to reproduce, and in warm temperatures they can go from egg to egg in 11 days. This means that a female thrips can hatch from an egg and 11 days later be laying eggs that will hatch in 4 days – without mating!

Thrips are vegetarians, consuming only plant tissue, and the beneficial insects are meat-eating predators who will hunt for thrips in those small places where the sprays and powders do not land and have no chance of controlling an infestation. The "catch 22" in this scenario is that the pesticide residuals are lethal to the beneficial insects for up to 16 weeks and these 2 techniques cannot be used together. It has to be one or the other. There are products, however, that can be used while waiting for chemical persistence to subside, and these are the Neem products (such as Azatin or Neemazad), alcohol, insecticidal soaps and sticky traps.

The natural enemies of thrips include mites of the genus *Amblyseius*, which have 2 species that are predators of thrips. *Amblyseius cucumeris* and *Amblyseius degenerans* will both feed on the immature stages of thrips. The *Amblyseius degenerans* is the more aggresive of the two and it will instinctively go from plant to plant to seek out its prey. It prefers the first stage larva of immature thrips and can suck dry 4 or 5 a day. The *Amblyseius cucumeris*, while not quite as mobile, will still do an excellent job of preying on the thrips eggs and consumes 2 or 3 immatures a day. They are both very efficient predators and should be introduced into a crop at the first indication of infestation. They can survive on pollen and nectar for short periods, if there are no thrips available.

The predatory true bug, *Orius insidious*, is a small beetle-type insect that will prey on thrips larvae and adults. The *Orius* nymphs and adults are voracious and will consume from 5 to 20 thrips a day, and in the absence of their prey, they also can survive on pollen. They have the advantage of having wings, so they can fly from plant to plant.

Any of these beneficial insects species can be used alone and they will do the job, or they can be used in combination for a more dramatic impact, but this depends upon the population level at the time of release. These decisions are the type that are made after the sticky cards have been monitored and the pest levels evaluated by the grower.

Beneficial insects can be ordered from any of the companies that supply these particular species, but they have no shelf life. They must be released immediately upon receipt. They are not packed with a food or fluid source and they will be very hungry and thirsty when they arrive at your location, which means that they will go to work immediately for you.

Leaves

by Cathy Black
Dalton, OH

The leaves of an African violet plant form a pattern. Each row of leaves on a single crown plant grows from one center radiating out in a group of three leaves.

The top center row is always the smallest group of three leaves. This is where growth begins. If you will look down into the center of your plant, you can see the first three tiny leaves.

The row directly under this first row will be just a little larger and fill in the spaces left by the first row. This pattern goes on down each succeeding row of leaves. Still each row will contain THREE LEAVES. So comes the term symmetry or radiating such as the spokes of a wheel.

As the first group of leaves begin to mature, the petioles lengthen and the leaves grow longer. This first set of leaves are called "baby" leaves. When the small plant has developed two or three rows of leaves, the original "baby" leaves will look out of proportion to the rest. These "baby" leaves are now at the base of the plant and need to be removed. They will spoil the plant's eventual symmetry and they will never grow or be a strong part of the plant.

Since the violet grows from top center to bottom, it is the bottom leaves that, in time, will lose their vigor and need removing. They should be removed in the same group of three as they grew. Removing only one of the three leaves can cause the plant to grow uneven, causing gaps. Eventually the plant could have many leaves on one side and fewer on the other. In most cases, if one of the leaves in a group of the oldest leaves (bottom row) has a problem, the remaining two leaves in the row will also show some sign of damage. Prompt removal and repotting to reset the plant down in its pot will assure that the plant will retain its symmetrical growth.

The secret to good symmetry is the removal of the three leaves of a group together as needed, not one today and one next week. When the leaves are removed the plant will have time to adjust and other leaves will fill in to form the symmetry needed.

During a plant's growth there will be times when one leaf may be damaged within the middle row of leaves. This one leaf can be removed and again the other leaves will fill in for it. I can not stress enough to do this immediately. It can not fill in overnight for a show.....

Due to cultural conditions such as extreme drying, over watering or change of fertilizing schedules, entire rows of leaves can show up smaller than the older row beneath it.

At this point, all of the leaves below and including the small or misshapen row need to be removed and the plant potted down to a proper size. These small or misshapen leaves will never grow properly and if you try to only remove them, the row above will droop because there will be nothing to hold them up.

Plants will, at times, develop a leaf directly over the leaf of the previous row or may try to grow four leaves in one row. When this occurs it is best to choose the leaf that will display the best symmetry and carefully remove the extra one. Again, if this is done early the plant will adjust itself.

Take the time to sit down with a mature plant and a baby plant. Study and trace with your eyes its growth pattern from the tiniest of the first three leaves to the oldest most mature leaves. You will begin to become aware of this pattern. Take your two hands holding them palms down thumb tips touching form a triangle with your index fingers. This is the pattern of the three leaves, sort of like the Star of David. Half of it would be the first row, the second half the second row. (confused).....

As a judge, I see so many plants marked down because the grower did not remove the baby or immature leaves on a plant. Another reason for deduction of points is the lower (oldest) row of leaves drooping way down below the previous row. Removing all three of these leaves would add generously to a score.

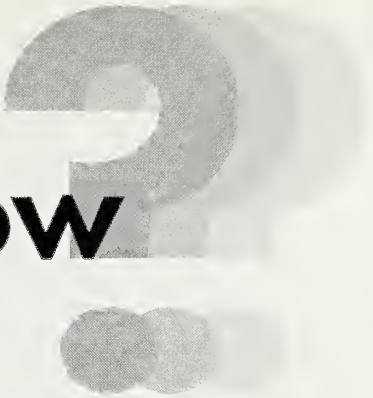
Each marred, broken, damaged or undersized leaf or gap in symmetry of a plant will have from 1/2 to 1 point deducted from its score for each infraction.

Early removal and continual repotting is well worth the effort if blue ribbons are on your mind.....

REMEMBER...leaves on violets that are damaged in any way will NEVER get better. So for not removing them promptly you will be setting yourself up for a big disappointment at showtime. A small plant with nice healthy green foliage and good symmetry will score better than a large plant with poor cultural care.....

Reprinted with permission from The Violet Connection publication of the Ohio State AVS

How Do You Prepare For Show



by Ruth Goeke
New Braunfels, TX

How do you approach preparing for a show? How do you grow your show plants? Is it a systematical method, an exacting science, or a more relaxed, carefree lackadaisical approach like mine?

There is nothing as exciting to African violet growers and enthusiasts as an African violet show. Of course, there is a **lot** of hard work involved in putting on a show and all club members work hard, but for me, the planning (and anticipation) of a show is part of the fun. I always get a much needed lift from attending a show and seeing all the lovely plants and thinking, "Why don't my plants look like that!" or "I should have entered my plants...they look as good."

Although I have grown thousands of plants over the twenty plus years since I've been bitten by the violet bug, I have never really enjoyed growing "show" plants. (Actually, my *most* favorite violet activity is being with my "violet" friends and maybe buying new plants -- certainly that's more fun than repotting, cleaning trays, watering, etc.) I often have great expectations...for a few weeks. I gather a group of plants that look like they have "show potential" and repot, place them on fresh matting or wicking, even go so far as to put on leaf supports! (Sometimes). Then I sit back...hoping for a miracle. With the way things usually go around here, I'll get swamped at the office and put in long hours there, have lots of family activities going on, and all of a sudden -- days have gone by and I'll think about my so-called "show plants". Oh well, there's always tomorrow...(the show *isn't* for weeks yet!) If not, there's always next year...and next year, I *might* just decide to win sweepstakes!

When I get around to checking them, it's obvious the matting had dried out at least five days earlier, a few of the leaf supports may have even fallen off, and leaves are drooping because of the desert conditions my plants are exposed to. If I have a few minutes, I might dash a little water on them to "tied them over" until I have more time. (I'll add fertilizer next time, and just double the amount to make up for lost time!) Gee, I didn't mean for that cold water to splash in that plant's center!!

Needless to say, after the plants go through this a few times, from desert to swamp, it does tend to take a toll on them and they won't look their best. (Do most judges actually notice culture break?) In fact, some of the newly root-pruned, freshly repotted plants might even succumb to crown rot! There's really no need to remove that sucker today -- it won't cause lopsided growth for at least several weeks, and by then, I'll have a nice size starter plant too!

Has it really been 1991 since those light bulbs were changed? Well, they look like they're still giving off lots of light! But, think of the time I can save if I would change *both* bulbs at once! Are those buds peeking out between the leaves? I'll just leave those on...the shelves look so dull without any blooms.

If I'm lucky, some plants will actually survive and may even have a few blooms on when show day arrives. Of course, normally more than half of my "show" plants keep the "home fires burning" when show time comes.

As any violet grower knows, the above way ***is not*** the way to grow award winning plants, although it never it ceases to amaze me when people say that violets are so difficult to grow. I personally think they are among the hardiest plants around. What other plant do you know that can survive such lack of attention? (I even kill cactus, and my ivies can't tolerate that much abuse.)

The majority of the violet growers I know do not approach their show plants with my nonchalant manner. They spend the necessary time required to repot their plants as often as needed, carefully attach leaf supports, keep soil evenly moist and constantly fed with well-balanced fertilizer (in the proper amount). They carefully turn the plants, even under lights, to assure good symmetrical, even growth. They replace those light bulbs as they should (and one at a time); not when they think the light is growing dim. They carefully disbud for months to insure the plant will be in spectacular bloom when show time comes. They even gently wash the dust from the foliage with warm water. Many hours of hard work go into preparing the plant for that short time in front of the judges. Growing show plants requires time and effort, and I'm convinced that a little *talent* helps!

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Some Thoughts on Lights

by Pat Richards
Olathe, KS

So much of life is not what happens to us, but how we perceive what happens to us. What on earth does that have to do with lights?

There are some lights available to the African violet grower that, if given the chance, will improve the performance of the violet. This is not without cost, of course, as is most anything worthwhile in life.

Most of us began growing our violets under two cool white fluorescent lights. These lights are perfectly adequate for the average grower. They are inexpensive, readily available, and generally do not last very long at peak output.

Some of us progressed to a cool white, warm white mix which offered different results. Some people swear by this combination while others would rather not grow with it at all.

The truth of the matter, as far as our violets are concerned, is that these two combinations are inadequate. Let's review basic light concepts. First, we know light is a spectrum composed of several different colors, much like a rainbow. Some of these colors are critical to plants while others are not. Second, we know the colors most important to African violets are red, which promotes flowering, and blue, which develops wonderfully vigorous foliage. Given this knowledge, what color do you think cool whites emit most? You guessed it, YELLOW! And what color do you believe warm whites emit most? Right again, and it's not red or blue.

Here is where the Gro-Lux and Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum come in. These are lamps intended to be used for plant growth, and guess what colors predominate with them? With Wide Spectrum, blue dominates. Hence, these lamps are best for foliage plants. With regular Gro-Lux, however, red dominates, giving it the advantage of being good for young, vigorously growing plants. Now, extend that to African violets, and you come up with a lamp that will promote blooming and flowering better than the others. (The whole concept of blooming centers around rapidly growing and dividing cells, hence, the emphasis on vigorous growth.)

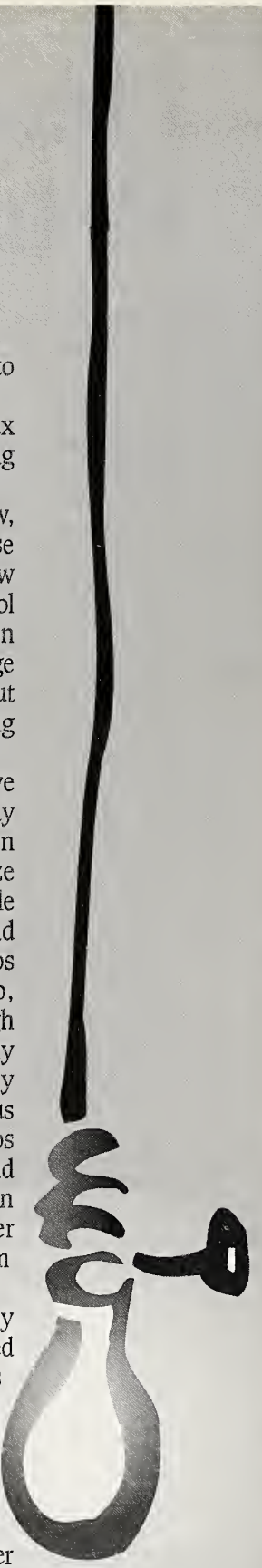
Now, before anyone thinks I work for Sylvania, General Electric also puts out a plant light similar to Gro-Lux. I have tried this lamp, found nothing wrong with it, but simply chose to stay with the old tried and true Gro-Lux.

The greatest disadvantage with the Gro-Lux is their expense. I can now explain my opening statement.

Ever since I have begun growing for show, and even a little bit before, I have used these Gro-Lux lights. I can't verify scientifically how much better their performance is than their cool white cousins. Maybe it is superstition. All I can say is they give me a psychological advantage that keeps me interested in and optimistic about my violets. And when you believe in something you're willing to pay a little bit more for it.

Having said that, let me tell you also, I have been experimenting with a new lamp that may replace the Gro-Lux in my fixtures. When commercials give awards, I like to patronize them. Almost two years ago, the Verilux people gave two lamps as an award. I sat down and read their literature which indicated their lamps very closely simulate daylight, so much so, people who suffer from that "not getting enough light" depression in wintertime benefit greatly from sitting under these lights. Then they contacted my club, Mid-America AVS, offering us their mid-winter special which made their lamps very affordable. The lights were purchased and cautiously introduced into my setup, first in combination with a Gro-Lux, and then after some time solely Verilux. Needless to say, I am very pleased with these lights.

What makes these lights special is that they supply a more than adequate supply of the red and blue spectrum, they last three years (25,000 light hours), and do not weaken as significantly as the cool white and Gro-Lux counterparts. In fact they hardly weaken at all! Because they duplicate natural light, the violets look very natural under them and will not change colors or be enhanced as with other lights. Several of us in this area are now experimenting with these lights. Just remember, for a psychological lift, think red and blue!



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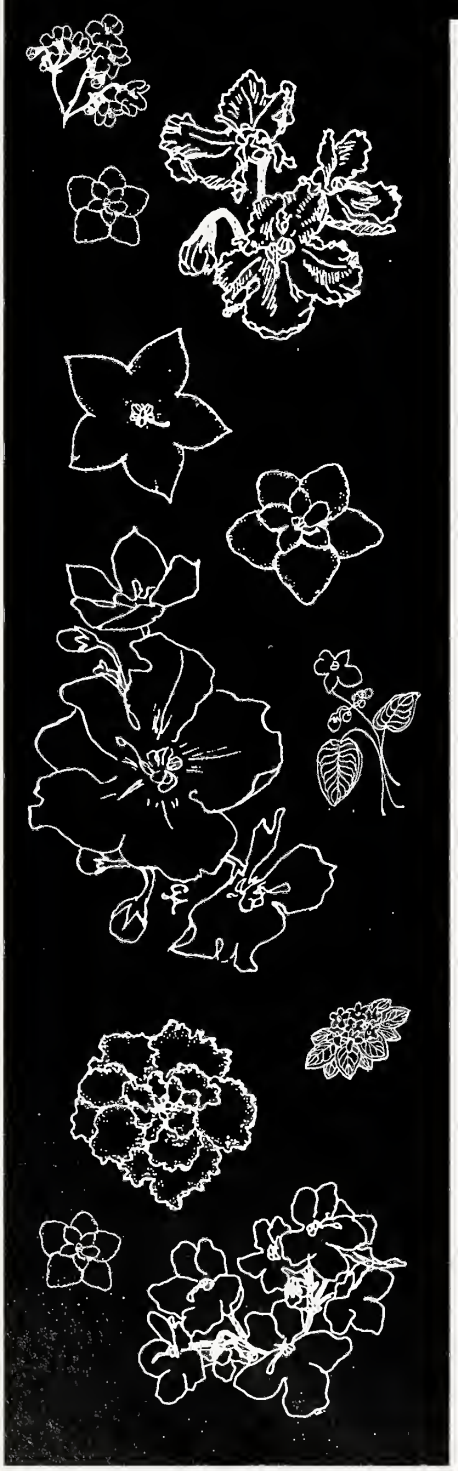
OPEN YOUR OWN VIOLET FACTORY

Part 2

by Kyle Coleman, Fort Worth, TX



Before you start your production line, streamline your production process for your intended product. Your production line will run efficiently if you focus on uniform processes. Growing more plants of fewer varieties will help cut down on care. Since every cultivar is a little different, it's easier and less time-consuming to grow five plants of each of 10 different varieties than to grow 50 different varieties. Different violets grow at different rates and require different sized pots, different fertilizers, different leaf supports, different amounts of light, and so on. A crop composed of standards, semiminiatures, miniatures, Episcias, and micro-miniatures in both trailer and rosette forms adds complexity and extra work to your production line. If nothing else, less time (and less closet space for different pots, fertilizer, etc.) is required to produce a specialized product line, such as all semiminiatures. Using the same techniques to care for ALL of your violets will save a lot of time and make life so much simpler.

Grooming techniques can be adjusted to streamline your production line. An efficient production line produces the greatest number of saleable plants in the least amount of time, so only use grooming techniques that significantly improve the quality of your plants for a minimal investment of time and effort. Disbuding requires less time than removing individual spent blossoms and makes your plants grow faster, mature sooner, and bloom heavier at sale time. Watering and feeding with wicks is a tremendous time saver. Matting works well also. A timer to keep your plant lights on a regular day/night schedule is another good idea. Any method of automating your factory will help.

For increased efficiency, your factory should be adjusted to a 90% solution. As with most products, quality violets can be dependably produced with a reasonable amount of care, but the relationship of work to product quality is not linear — those last ten points of perfection may cost as much (or more) than the investment required to produce a 90 point (blue ribbon) plant. Because of this, the effort required to produce perfect sale plants is usually not worth the extra dollar that you might be paid for the higher quality. Keep in mind that quantity is also a quality — you may be able to raise more money for your club by growing many blue ribbon plants instead of a few Best of Show plants. (This is the same idea behind the sweepstakes awards.)

Your growing techniques can also be adjusted to the production line. Many people pot standard plantlets into small pots, then into medium pots, then into regular pots as their show plants mature. For your factory, you may decide to pot standard plantlets into small pots, then skip to the regular pots after the plantlets are root bound in the small pots. This typically won't produce a violet worthy of the cover of the AVSA culture folder, but most people won't be able to tell the difference — and you will have saved one third of the time required to pot your sale plants. To cut down on growing time for sales plants, Velma Lewis recommends planting three or five trailer cuttings of the same variety per pot. Multiple trailers will fill a pot in much less time, and the plant will likely be better shaped with minimal grooming and training.

The last phase of growing violets for a plant sale is what I call creative packaging. Packaging is how your product is presented to the consumer. Many of these considerations determine

how well your plants will sell. The plants should look healthy and be easy to purchase. It helps to arrange the sale plants in some simple but attractive display. Your club members must be friendly and personable.

Last minute grooming is critical. The plants and pots should be clean. The week before the sale, you might like to rearrange the leaves to appear more symmetrical. Bloom stalks can be rearranged to improve symmetry. Badly damaged or sickly leaves should be removed, along with any obviously spent blossoms. A soft paint brush can help remove dust and traces of soil. The idea is not a perfectly groomed plant, but a generally attractive one.

Another very important sales factor is convenience. On the sales tables, leave enough space between the plants for easy inspection. The buyer should be able to read the labels without having to pick up the plant and turn it over. Many buyers are interested in price and/or variety, so both should be legible and printed in large type (18 point/0.25 inch or larger type printed on computer labels works well for me). If necessary, be prepared to provide boxes or some kind of protection for the trip home. The AVSA culture folders are a convenient violet care guide that can inexpensively be sent home with each plant.

The plants should not be easily knocked off the tables or be easily turned over. I've seen inexpensive plastic freezer containers used to provide stability and to serve as reservoirs for mature semiminiatures. A hole may be cut in the top of each container so that the pot partially sits down into the hole. (Note that the customers may assume that anything used to display the violet will be included with the purchase, so be prepared to send these home with the violets or clearly display the cost of display items.)

Public relations is another important part of sales. Plan on personally manning the sales room. Be warm and friendly, and cheerfully answer any questions from your customers. Violet sales are typically as much of a social event as a business event, so don't be afraid to chat with your customers during the sale. A sale is also a wonderful opportunity to recruit new violet club members, make new friends, or get to know other club members better.

I've been following these guidelines and hoping that someday my local violet club sales will equal those at the Lone Star African Violet Council conventions. With more club members turning the crank on their home violet factories, I'm sure the Moonlight club's sales will prosper. Who knows — maybe we should develop a set of sale awards? We could give a rosette to the member who raises the most money for the club, or maybe a plaque for the greatest number of sales plants?

Maybe not. I'd rather just help my club pay its bills by watching my crop of home grown violets quickly disappear from the sales table.

See Part 1 of ***Open Your Own Violet Factory*** *in the Nov-Dec 1995 AVM*

Have You Tried This?

AV Tips From AV Growers

If you have a violet with leaves turning pale green, try the following recipe: Put 1 cup of hot water in a jug, sprinkle 1 teaspoon of gelatine over the top and stir briskly until dissolved. Add 3 cups of cold water and stir. Water plant once a month. (This mixture does not keep - prepare fresh each time.) Lovely, rich green leaves will result - and fast!

Early Morn AV Group Newsletter
Australia

If you find powdery mildew on your horticulture entries, DO NOT spray them at the last minute. If you do, you are likely to bruise the blossoms or stain the foliage. Instead, mix a solution of fungicide (normal strength) and pour into a small container (be sure to use warm water). Take a small paintbrush with soft bristles and "paint" the mildew away. Pay particular attention to bloom stalks as powdery mildew loves to grow on them. Afterwards, gently rinse the plants off with clear WARM water and dab dry with a paper towel.

Orange Pulp
Publication of the Orange County AVS

How messy do you get while repotting? It's a good idea to cultivate more controlled work habits. You can sometimes transmit pests from one plant to another while repotting. Here is how one grower tries to prevent that: He prepares separate layers of newspapers; repots the first plant on top of newspaper; carefully rolls up that sheet, along with debris from the plant, and discards it. Then, he repots the next plant on a clean sheet of paper, and so.

Sue Haffner
CA Council News

If your potting mix doesn't want to absorb water when new, try wetting it and allowing it to stand for a few days, or at least overnight, before potting. This should encourage the mix to take on water more readily. A large portion of the mixes used today is peat. We all know how hard it is to get peat to take water once it has dried out completely. Potting mix should be damp enough to form a ball (a-la-snowball), but dry enough to break when dropped.

Paul Kroll
Edmonton AVS Newsletter

When you change a fluorescent tube in your light garden, mark the date on the end of the tube with a wax pencil. Then, you will know at a glance when it is time to change them.

Sue Haffner
CA Council News

FLOWER & ARRANGEMENT & DESIGN Part II

by Antoinette Breden
Redondo Beach, CA

PRINCIPLES

The principles of design "are the rules by which the elements are manipulated to create beauty, harmony, expression, and order."[2] These principles, as with the elements of design, all work together to create the whole.

BALANCE is the visual and physical weight in a design. It can be symmetrical with equal distribution, or asymmetrical with balance that is unequal in distribution. Balance can also be achieved by compensation through color—light to dark; through form—light to heavy weight; through texture—fine to coarse; and with space or solids to fill the space.

CONTRAST comes about through changes in color, gradation of size, or through use of the stages of plant development, a bud to a mature bloom.

DOMINANCE provides the focal point, the strength of the arrangement. More of one element, such as line, direction or color, a large flower or a mass of flowers, will be dominant and focus the eye, while small flowers or a different form will provide the secondary focus. Stability will emerge at the dominant point of focal interest.

The fourth principle of design is **RHYTHM**. This is the motion that draws the eye through the design. Use of the natural growth patterns of the plants provides a natural rhythmic movement. Repetition of color, form, a gradual transition of dark to light or large to small also give the design motion.

PROPORTION is the relationship of plant material to the container and the total space. The accessories to the arrangement and their placement are also important to the proportion of the design.

Closely aligned with proportion is the principle of **SCALE**. This is a matter of size, and deals with gradation in size of plant material, of color—light to dark, of containers that fit the arrangement, and the placement of plant material with the small, airy plant material at the height of the arrangement and larger flowers and foliage near base.

All of these principles lead to unity; that sense of all elements being part of a whole that has flow and continuity with the dominant feature powerfully holding the composition together.

STYLE OF DESIGN

Now that we have considered the theory of the Elements and Principles of design, we need to look at the **STYLE OF DESIGN**.

As mentioned earlier, certain styles have become classics: the traditional, mass arrangements which are predominate in the Western world, and the modern arrangements with their many and varied forms including the abstract design.

ABSTRACT ART is non-realistic. In abstract flower arrangement, we look at plant material in a new way in order to create new forms. To abstract something is to simplify by eliminating all extraneous detail. The **essence** is represented, rather than the **concrete** detail.

Abstract flower arrangement does not conform to any set standard as do traditional flower arrangements. Rather, the arranger carries the work beyond the restriction of traditional designing to a freer work with a difference in interest.

The abstract character of an arrangement depends on the use of materials as **DESIGN ELEMENTS**. In using the

qualities of these materials, the arranger can create symbolism and expression. There will be varying degrees of abstraction including borderline designs which will embrace both traditional and abstract characteristics.

There are two broad groups that encompass abstract design. The first is a composition with no subject matter, other than the design relationship. A simple pattern of **lines** that cut up space. (Areas of empty space are as rhythmical as the lines of movement formed by solid items.) The second group of abstract design is that design which is drawn from a subject, theme, or idea; and uses material symbolically to convey an impression of a scene, object, mood, or experience. (One may not see the real object, such as a bird, but the design artist can suggest the grace of a bird.)

Since abstract arrangements are not constructed to any set plan, the unit can be assembled in an infinite number of ways, but certain general **DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS** can be considered for clarification purposes. It is interesting to make this consideration by comparing the abstract with other types of design, remembering that there are no rigid or clear-cut divisions between one and the other.

ABSTRACT ARRANGEMENTS

In abstract arrangements, items are assembled quite differently. The eye can begin its path anywhere, drawn from one interest area to another with no static focal area. No unit or single part is more important than any other; all may be isolated in space, but there must be a relationship so the arrangement is easy to look at and the rhythm is easily evident. Line does not always taper off gently as it moves to the outline of the design as in traditional design. The characteristic lack of traditional material strengthens the force of design. The use of material as design elements in abstract arrangements is exemplified in the use of space.

SPACE assumes great importance in the abstract design. It is used to tie together all of the separate parts of design by eye control. Space intervals speed up or slow down the eye movement depending on how close together the spaces are. Space is very much a part of the balance of design. **LINE** is accented by the obvious use of space, so that the individual plant is dramatized.

Space in abstract design is not so much **in** the arrangement as with traditional work, but **of** the arrangement. Because the abstract arranger is not concerned with realistic representation, plants are often altered or modified in appearance to increase their abstract quality. Strap leaves are looped or clipped, only parts of a leaf are used, flower stalks are used with blooms removed. Dyed or painted materials are utilized. Distortion is employed but is effective only when it adds to the beauty and expressiveness of the design.

Freedom from restriction is necessary to allow the abstract arranger the initiative to design imaginatively. But even with this freedom, there are characteristics that are generally shared by all modern arrangements:

1. **Dynamic balance**
2. **Sharp contrasts**
3. **Bold forms**
4. **Few materials**
5. **Clarity of line**

The ultimate **aim** of modern arrangements, however, is still to create a visually pleasing, aesthetically satisfying composition.

The emphasis in this presentation has been on the standard interpretative flower arrangement. The same approach can be used, with appropriate adaptations, for interpretive plant arrangements.

Flower arranging should be an art of natural growth with all that is good in the new trends adding to, rather than replacing, the time tested old traditions, and without abdicating good taste or the principles of design. These principles will always stimulate new dimensions to flower arranging as an art form.

Footnotes

[1] The African Violet Society of America, Inc.'s Handbook For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges, The African Violet Society of America, Inc. (1992) 70.

[2] op. cit., p. 71

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Read Part 1 of Flower Arrangement and Design in the Nov-Dec 1995 Issue of the African Violet Magazine

About Sports

By Pat Hancock
West Chester, OH

African violets seem by their nature to be very fickle creatures. It is mind-boggling to me to think about all the beautiful hybrids that we enjoy today having their beginnings in the very plain original species plants. Don't get me wrong, the species are beautiful, but I am amazed by the many colors, shapes, fantasies and glitter overlays that are ours today.

Many of the improvements in our hybrids have come through the work of hybridizers, but a great many have come into being quite by accident, through mutation, or sporting.

For the past two years I have been interested in the beautiful blooms of the chimeras. I have grown quite a collection from the bloom stems and have been having fun experimenting a bit with them. Many people think that a chimera will not grow from a leaf. However, a chimera leaf will make plantlets just like any other leaf. The difference is that the plant grown from the chimera leaf will almost always result in the same variety plant that the chimera originally sported from. It will be similar in every way to the chimera except that it will not have the striped bloom.

I have one chimera that I am most fond of that sported from a Granger's "Crystallaire." "Crystallaire" is a double medium blue star with a white edge. The chimera is a huge semi-double white star with light blue stripes. The interesting thing about this plant is that when I put down a leaf from the chimera, I got the same type bloom as the chimera except that the bloom was white with a green edge. This really surprised me since I expected the original "Crystallaire." I talked with Jim Eyerdom (thinking that he had made a mistake in where the chimera had come from) and he said that "Crystallaire" would very often sport to white. Thus, three distinctly different blooms had come from the same original violet tissue.

We are all quite familiar with the tendency of plants with fantasy type blooms sporting to the solid color of the fantasy markings, and we are disappointed when this happens.

Last year I had a plant of "Ma Gigi" started from a leaf. It sported to a huge pink star with a lavender/purple center. Many who saw it thought it was more beautiful than the original plant. Several people told me they had it sport to bluish purple, but never to pink and purple.

I was taken with a beautiful plant in the 1992 Ohio State Show. It was a red and white version of "Arapahoe". I talked to Kent Stork about it and he stated that "Arapahoe" would very often sport this way. Sure enough, I put down a bunch of leaves and one did sport and produced a really beautiful plant. Kent named the sport "Arapahoe Chief".

At the Ohio State Show in 1991, I saw a plant in the Granger Garden's display that I liked. I took a picture so I could ask Jim Eyerdom about it later. He said that it was a sport of "White Puff" and that Emilie Savage had been fooling with it to see if it would come true. I wrote to Emilie about it and sent her the picture. She later brought me two bloom stems from her plant. Both bloom stems grew and one was exactly like the chimera that I had originally admired, huge white star with a pale blue stripe. The second bloom produced a plant that bloomed the same as Granger's "Blue Puff." Here again, were three completely different plants from the same beginning.

Shirley Farnsworth sent me a beautiful chimera that she had grown from one bloom stem on a plant of "Lavender Lavender". Apparently the one stem had bloomed in a way different from the rest of the plant. She named it "Purple Majesty". It was a huge white with deep purple striped star bloom that was quite breathtaking. When I put down a leaf of "Purple Majesty" the resulting plants were "Lavender Lavender". Why the one bloom stem sported to

an entirely different color is a puzzle, but the resulting plant is much more beautiful than the original

At the Ohio State Show in 1994, I purchased two small plants of the project plant "Blue Radiance". When they were old enough to bloom, I was very surprised. Both bloomed with a pink fantasy instead of the blue solid. I called Jim Eyerdom and he said that the original plant was "Pink Radiance" which sported to "Fantasy Radiance" which sported to "Blue Radiance."

SO - WHAT CAUSES THESE TISSUE CHANGES IN THE AFRICAN VIOLET?

Many believe that putting down leaves with very short stems will cause a high percentage to sport. However, Travis Davis of Travis' Violets told me that he cuts all his stems to less than 1/2 inch and he gets a minimal amount of sporting.

In the September-October 1993 issue of the African Violet Society of America magazine, Ralph Robinson suggests that many different stressful conditions may cause sporting. He lists as being stressful:

- High temperature
- Toxic reaction to overuse of insecticides or fertilizers
- Abnormally high or low Ph

He further states that once a plant has changed due to one of these stresses, it will not normally change back when the stress is removed.

This explains why some plants with multi-colored blossoms suddenly bloom a solid color, but it does not explain why a leaf put down might produce three plants like a parent plant and one that is very different.

Last April, I put down a leaf of Marie Burns' "Imagination". It made four plantlets. Three of them bloomed like the description, a blue star with burgundy edge. One plant decided to be entirely different and it bloomed a bright pink with a wide, ruffled green edge. No other leaf was in the pot, only the leaf of "Imagination". The foliage on all four plants is identical. Of course, my favorite is the pink.

Probably the two most outstanding sports have been the foliage sports. "Tommie Lou" and Lillian Jarrett. In 1959 Mrs. Tommie Lou Oden put down a leaf of "White Pride". Most of the plantlets of the leaf were exactly true to the description - green leaves and double white blossoms. However, one of them was very different. The foliage had white markings and a very distinctive white edge. She propagated this plant through nine generations before introducing it and for the next ten years, it was one of the most popular violets on the market. It was completely unique at the time. I recently noticed a death notice in the African Violet Society of America magazine for Mrs. Oden and I couldn't help thinking what a wonderful contribution she had made to the violet world. "Lillian Jarrett" was a plant introduced by Tinari Greenhouses in 1958 with the description - Large, soft baby pink blossom, plain medium green pointed leaf, slightly cupped, color leaf reverse light green to pink to almost white. Mrs. Tinari says that the plant appeared as a seedling about 1955. After about three years, the plant began to show variegation in the foliage. This mutation has come to be known as Mosaic or "Lillian Jarrett" variegation. These two mutations have given us many, many beautiful variegated plants that we would not have had these things not happened.

Granger Gardens has produced a very large number of sports both in chimeras and in normal mutations. I have spoken to Jim Eyerdom several times concerning the background of some of these and he has been most cooperative in supplying background information. He told me that the chimera "Silver Summit", when put down in leaves will produce mostly solid white star blooms or blue star blooms, but about 1% will sport with the stripe of "Silver Summit".

Below is a list that Jim very graciously gave me of the Granger plants that are true chimera sports and the ones that have appeared as seedlings. It is his feeling that whether they appear as sports or seedlings, they are still sports and a freak of nature.

"Keiko" (pink with blue fantasy stripe) is a sport from "Kilauea", pink fantasy with a white stripe.

"Color Flash" (bright coral star with bright blue stripe) is a sport of "Ohio Sunset", a bright pink with dark blue fantasy

"Fantasy Starburst" (bright pink with dark blue fantasy stripe) is a sport of "Fantasy Sunset", a bright pink with a dark blue fantasy.

"Holy Smoke" (pink fantasy with blue stripe) is a sport of "Fantasy Mist" a pink star with purple and lavender fantasy.

"Yasuyo" (medium pink with blue stripe) is a sport of "Fantasy Splendor" a single pink with a dark blue fantasy.

"Mauna Lao" (a rose/orchid star with dark red/orchid stripe) is a sport of "Amigo", a dark red.

"Kumiko, Hiroko, Emiko, Valencia, and Moonbeams" have all showed up as seedlings, but may, in Jim's opinion, still be sports.

None of us can imagine what new traits may appear as sports in the future. Our fickle plant seems always to want to change itself and to make itself ever more beautiful.

Showcase

Orchard's Purple Haze

Hybridized and Grown by: ***Rahim Wilson***

Photo Credit: George Heath

Optimara Leonardo Da Vinci

Hybridized by: ***Holtkamp***

AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE
"Fifty Golden Years With Violets"
MAY 1996
Horticulture Division – Amateur

SECTION I – COLLECTIONS

Class

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.

1a. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminiature trailers).

2. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminiature.

SECTION II – STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE

3. Dark blue and purple
4. Light to medium blue
5. Light to medium pink
6. Dark pink, rose, and coral
7. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
8. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
9. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
10. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
11. Fantasy
12. All edged

SECTION III – STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

13. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
14. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
15. White, cream, and blush
16. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
17. Fantasy and all edged

SECTION IV – MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

18. Purple and all shades of blue
19. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
20. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
21. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged
22. Fantasy
23. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
24. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
25. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
26. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
27. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION V – SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

28. Purple and all shades of blue
29. Pink and coral
30. Red and fuchsia
31. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush
32. All edged
33. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
34. Fantasy
35. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage.
36. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
37. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
38. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera, variegated foliage
39. All edged, variegated foliage
40. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION VI – TRAILERS AND SPECIES, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE

41. Standard trailers
42. Miniature trailers
43. Semiminiature trailers
44. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids

SECTION VII – NEW CULTIVARS

45. Seedlings
46. Sports or mutants

46a. Vintage Violets – Standard plants introduced before 1965 (Entry card must show date introduced)

46b. Vintage Violets-miniature or semiminiature plant introduced before 1970 (Entry card must show date introduced)

SECTION VIII – AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT IN UNUSUAL CONTAINER

47. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminiature in container
48. One African violet trailer in container

SECTION IX – GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

49. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted)
50. Tuberous-rooted
51. Scaly-rhizomed
52. Fibrous-rooted
53. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION X – CONTAINER GARDENS – Miniature gardens with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plants. All plants must be planted in the container; no cut plant material permitted; accessories are optional.

Class 54. "In the beginning. . ." The African violet was found in Africa, according to the AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges, on the coast "opposite Zanzibar" in 1884, and in the Giryama and Shimba Mountains in 1887, and in 1892 in Tanzania. Choose a location. This terrarium should not exceed 30 inches.

Class 55. "From the mountains to the sea." This could describe Georgia from the barrier islands on the Atlantic Ocean to the Appalachian Mountains in the north. A natural planting in a natural container such as driftwood or lava rock, etc., with over all dimensions not to exceed 20 inches.

Class 56. "Okefenokee." Land of "quaking" earth. It is one of the largest swamps in the U.S.; much of it is a Natural Wildlife Refuge and it is the site of a State Park with board walks and "canoe trails." A dish garden with overall dimensions not to exceed 20 inches.

Class 57. "Gone with the Wind . . ," There was no Tara but we all have a mental image of what it might have looked like —

is yours in spring, summer, or fall? A dish garden with overall dimensions not to exceed 20 inches.

SECTION XI – INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS – All entries in this section must consist of one or more African violet plants, removed from their pots, and used in a design. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted, and colored plant material are permitted. Man made material, other than artificial plant material, is permitted. No artificial plant material is permitted. Accessories, backdrops and/ or draping are optional. Entries are to be staged in white niches 28" high, 21" wide, and 15" deep. Each class is limited to 6 entries.

Class 58. "Savannah. . ." A city on the coast with many small squares and gardens — "Old World charm" draped with "New World Spanish moss" — Savannah was Georgia's first town.

Class 59. "Athens . . ." The classic city. Home of the University of Georgia and the Georgia State Botanical Gardens.

Class 60. "Atlanta . . ." Do you think of the home of Coca Cola, Ted Turner and the Braves and CNN, Margaret Mitchell, or site of the 1996 Olympics?

SECTION XII – INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS – Each entry is a design using fresh cut African violet blossoms. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted and colored plant material, or any manmade material is permitted. Artificial plant material is not permitted. Accessories and draping are optional.

Class 61. "The Peach State." Use a peach or pink blossom in a small arrangement to be displayed in a peach basket which is 8" in diameter and is 6" deep. The sides taper in so the bottom is 6" in diameter. The wood is a natural, unfinished color. This class is limited to eight entries.

Class 62. "Warm Springs —The Little White House." A bygone era. This entry should suggest a step back in time as we are poised on the threshold of the 21st century. A small arrangement to be displayed in a white niche 8" high, 6" wide, and 4" deep. This class is limited to ten entries.

Class 63. "There's gold in them thar hills. . ." Gold was discovered in north Georgia and the rush was on. You can still pan for gold in Dahlonega, site of America's first gold rush, and you can see Georgia gold on the dome of our state capitol. Niche is 28" high, 21" wide, and 15" deep. This class is limited to six entries.

Class 64. "Rafting on the Chattahoochee." A favorite summer activity of Atlantans. Try your hand at an underwater arrangement not to exceed 12" wide by 12" deep by 18" high. To be displayed at eyelevel—no niche. This class is limited to ten entries.

Class 65. "Callaway Gardens." It is a 2500 acre garden that is home of the Sibley Center, a greenhouse with walls that open in the summer, the butterfly house, and Victory Garden South, and all those azaleas. Niche is 28" high, 21" wide, and 15" deep. This class is limited to six entries.

Class 66. "Olympic Year." Atlanta is the host for the 1996 games. Salute the athletes as they prepare to compete and let us know what is your favorite event. Niche is 28" high, 21" wide, and 15" deep. This class is limited to six entries.

Class 67. "Violets Are International." The members of AVSA come from around the world now. Represent a country with your arrangement. Niche is 28" high, 21" wide, and 15" deep. This class is limited to six entries.

Class 68. "Our Golden Anniversary." AVSA is fifty years old. Use gold in the arrangement to celebrate our favorite flower. Niche is 28" high, 21" wide, and 15" deep. This class is limited to six entries.

Class 69. "The Next Fifty Years." Look to the future with a **mobile** suggesting the rush of the next century. Top cross bar will be supplied by the host. Niche is 28" high, 21" wide, and 15" deep. This class is limited to six entries.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XIII – Education Exhibit

70. Education exhibit (by individual)

SECTION XIV – Affiliate Publications

71. Yearbooks (once a year publications)
72. Newsletters (16 pages or less)
73. Magazines (more than 16 pages)

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SECTION XV – Specimen plants

A. Collections
   74. AVSA Collections
      a. Standard Plants
      b. Miniatures and Semiminiatures
   75. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)
   76. Standard African Violets
   77. Miniature African Violets
   78. Semiminiature African Violets
   79. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature

C. Specimen African Violets
   80. Standard, plain green foliage
   81. Standard, variegated foliage
   82. Miniatures, plain foliage
   83. Miniatures, variegated foliage
   84. Semiminiatures, plain foliage
   85. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage
   86. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)
   87. Saintpaulia species

D. Gesneriads
   88. Gesneriads (other than African violets)

SECTION XVI – Display Tables

89. Display Tables

HORTICULTURE DIVISION
Amateur – Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, May 22, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY and on Thursday, May 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be nondecorative. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. Self-watering pots, such as MoistRite and Oyama may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which

they are growing.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 3 through 44.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 44, 47 and 48 as those in classes 3 through 44.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 48 must be singlecrown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiplecrown. S. Amazon velutina, S. Amazon grotei, S. Sigi Falls and S. House of Amani will be accepted in Class 45.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of _____" If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow, such as "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in an AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 1a, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 2, must be AVSA registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 1a, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 2.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Entries must be checked out on Saturday, May 25, from 11:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m., Sunday, May 26.

DESIGN DIVISION
Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, May 22, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, May 23, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. and 12:30 to 6:00 P.M. MEMBERS ON TOUR ONLY may enter on Thursday, May 23, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Design entry books will be closed on Thursday, May 23, at 9:00 P.M.

Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class.

Entries in classes 54, 55, 56, and 57 are unlimited but reservations are required.

Entries in classes 58 through 60, class 63, and classes 65 through 69 are limited to 6 entries in each class. Class 61 is limited to 8 entries. Classes 62 and 64 are limited to 10 entries each. Reservations are required.

All entries must be the creation of the exhibitor, and must be placed by the exhibitor.

Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs on Thursday, May 23, **until 10:00 P.M.**, and on Friday, May 24, from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M. for final touchup and blossom placement **ONLY**. All exhibitors and their materials **must be out of the show room by 8:00 A.M.** Friday, May 24.

Design entries must be removed from the show room Saturday night, May 25. All design entries will be checked out after the show closes but before 1:00 A.M.

3. The American flag (or facsimile), artificial plant materials, and live creatures may not be used in any design exhibit.

4. Dried, treated, weathered, and colored plant materials and manmade material of the designer's choice may be used (artificial plant material prohibited) in all classes except in classes for Container Gardens. Accessories and bases may be used in all classes. Exception: Bases are not permitted in classes 54-57, 64, and 69.

5. Draping or backgrounds may be used in all classes except classes 54-57 and 64.

6. No part of a design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space dimensions.

7. All entries must have a white 3" x 5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known) used. A written subtitle defining the exhibitor's interpretation of the class may also be included on the cards.

8. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decisions of the judges will be final, unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

9. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

10. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

11. Anyone desiring to reserve space in the design division must send a reservation blank (regular mail, please) postmarked no sooner than March 1, 1996, and sent no later than April 15, 1996, co Beverly Moffatt, 4183 Quinn Drive, Evans, GA 30809. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Exhibitors who wish to cancel reservations must write to Mrs. Moffatt or call (706) 855-1691.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION
Rules and Regulations

1. Only AVSA affiliates in good standing are eligible to enter yearbooks, newsletters, and magazines.

2. Yearbooks must be mailed to Florida Judges Council, Bob Green, Chair, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL, 32955. Three copies of the yearbook must be in possession of the judges by February 15, 1996.

3. Newsletters and magazines must be mailed to the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges, Mary A. Boland, Chair, 6415 Wilcox Court, Alexandria, VA 22310-3329 by February 15, 1996.. A complete club year of the issue must be included in duplicate.

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION
Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter either the Specimen Plant Section or the Display Table Section, but not both. They may also enter the Design Division.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named, and all African violets must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species, and trailing gesneriads.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same

variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, class 73, and Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 74, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara/Rhapsodie plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as they are for amateurs.

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either Specimen Plant Section or Display Table Section will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor or the right and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".

7. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminiature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged.

9. Any plant, up to a maximum of 15 plants, on a display table may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards, either standard, miniature, semiminiature and all types of trailers, either standard, miniature or semiminiature.

10. No other material, such as ivy, may be used on a display table.

11. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.

13. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables.

14. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

15. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Commercial Silver Trophies will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of the Display Tables receiving the first, second, and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.

18. A Point-Score Sheet Shall be given each Display table Exhibitor to show how trophies are awarded.

19. To reserve a display table for further information, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068. Phone (816) 781-2160 after 6 p.m.

WANTED!

Slides for Social Hour

This year we will be taking a walk down memory lane, for our 50th Anniversary. Please send your slides of past conventions as well as last years convention in St. Louis. Include some brief information about each slide (peoples name, year, location) so we will know who's in it and what they are doing. Slides of shows, plants, people in meetings, on tours, at presentations, buying plants, eating, sleeping, what ever!!

Slides not selected to be shown will be returned. Slides of the '95 St. Louis Convention will be kept as part of the AVSA Library. Slides of past conventions will be returned on request.

Please send slides in by April 20, 1996 to:

Nancy G. Hayes
9 Cobblestone Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Attention Hybridizers!

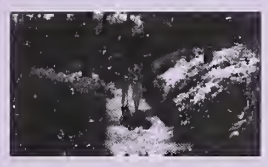
It is time once again to prepare photo slides of your new introductions for the New Introductions Luncheon on Saturday at the 1996 Atlanta Convention. Kent Stork will be presenting the program again this year. Additionally, we will be hosting a separate luncheon for 30 to 40 Japanese guests who will be attending the convention. Your plant descriptions will be translated, so keep them clear, concise and accurate. In order to get the translations completed in time for convention, it is very important we receive the slides no later than March 1, 1996.

Two slides of each plant will be required, one will be a view of the plant and one close-up of the blossom. Please include with your slides a description of each one, marked with a corresponding number for clarification and no mixups. Send your slides and descriptions to:

Ann Miller
522 Willow Wisp Circle
Spring, TX 77388

AVSA Convention in Atlanta Georgia
Tours – May 20, 1996 to May 23, 1996

Tour #1 –
Callaway Gardens
and Warm Springs



Monday, May 20, 1996
8:30 am to 5:15 pm

We leave the Crowne Plaza Ravinia and travel seventy-five miles south along the Georgia 400 toll road and I-85 to Warm Springs, Georgia. We will visit the "Little White House" including the Presidential compound and museum in Warm Springs. The curative powers of the springs have lured the hopeful for centuries and just fifty years ago they lured President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who hoped to improve his health after contracting polio.

After our visit to the "Little White House", we will travel through the Roosevelt State Park for a scenic ridge drive to Callaway Gardens. The foothills of the Appalachian Mountains offers views from both sides of the highway making it hard to believe that you are only an hour from Atlanta.

We arrive at Callaway Gardens for luncheon which is included in the tour. Callaway Gardens is a treat for the senses with three (3) major attractions. In addition to driving around the 2,500 acre gardens, complete with guide, we will see stunning floral displays at the Sibley Center, experience the multicolored magic of free flying butterflies in the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center and visit the Victory Garden South.

Some walking is required on this tour but it is not extensive and there are benches and seats available for your use at all locations.
Cost $45.00

Tour #2 –
Historic Atlanta

Monday, May 20, 1996
8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Experience the Cyclorama, a light and sound production viewed in a circular diorama painting. depicting the Battle of Atlanta during the Civil War. Here, the battle of Atlanta revolves around you in a 9,000-pound 358' by 42' painting. European artists painted the panorama with great visual accuracy. A three dimensional foreground adds lively realism to the Cyclorama. Landscaping, wagons, railroad ties, blasted trees and 128 soldiers are carefully sculpted in perspective to blend seamlessly with the canvas. Lighting effects, narration and a rotating seating platform let you visit the scene during the Battle of Atlanta.

Tour the world of Coca-Cola. The World of Coca-Cola is truly a memorable part of your visit to Atlanta. The four galleries "Creating a Classic," "The Pause that Refreshes," "Every day...Everywhere," and "The Real Thing" provide a fanciful look at the bottling process, a 1930's soda fountain, the international aspect of Coca-Cola, vintage television ads, radio jingles and the story of how a commercial is made. Coca-Cola, first served at a pharmacy soda fountain, is now enjoyed in more than 195 countries - more than 600 million times a day.

Our day is punctuated with a stop at Underground Atlanta for lunch on your own. Underground Atlanta is not really below ground level but it is below the streets, which were moved up to the second floor level when train and horse and buggy traffic became too heavy for pedestrian safety. There are stores and restaurants for your shopping and eating pleasure.

During the tour you will travel along Peachtree Street into Buckhead, the Beverly Hills of Atlanta, where you will see the magnificent homes of Atlanta's rich and famous. You will pass by the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the Georgia State Capital and Government Complex, the site of the Margaret Mitchell House (the house has burned down) and the Fox Theatre.
Cost $29.00

Tour #3 –
Atlanta Botanical Garden

Tuesday, May 21, 1996
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Escape to an Exotic Oasis right in the heart of downtown Atlanta. Explore an arid desert filled with exotic plants, a lush tropical jungle teeming with bright flowers and carnivorous plants, then discover strange species that beckon you with shrouds of mist as colorful birds flutter above an idyllic waterfall. The Dorothy Chipman Fuqua Conservatory has more than 16,000 square feet of tropical, desert and endangered species on display. For the hearty walker you can explore the trails of a restored fifteen acre hardwood forest, or you may decide to explore the vegetables, rose or Japanese gardens. The garden has a gift shop, library and a small greenhouse that sells plants.

Walking is required to see the entire garden, but the area is set up for disabled people. The shade garden is the least visited but provides benches for resting.

Take a tour and be back in time for lunch and committee meetings.
Cost $17.00

Tour #4 –
Driving Miss Daisy

Tuesday, May 21, 1996
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On this tour we will see houses and scenery from the movie "Driving Miss Daisy". Rich architecture outlines the old southern houses and landscaping views reach out with southern charm. The Carter Center of Emory University is a place where visitors may view personal aspects of the Presidency embodied in handmade gifts from the American people, elegant objects from foreign leaders, a formal dinner setting from the White House and videotaped events at the executive mansion. A glimpse at the American Presidency, from life in the White House to complex decisions made in the Oval Office. Exhibits focus on important twentieth century events such as war and peace, disarmament and the economy.

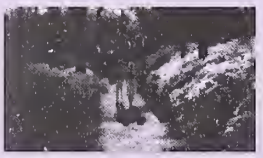
Lunch and/or shopping on your own at Loehman's

Plaza. In addition to several smaller places, you can chose from Grady's, Lettuce Souprize You, St Charles Deli, Le Peep, Mexican, or Chinese menus.

After lunch we will visit Fernbank Museum which is a natural history museum for the next century. State-of-the-art galleries and hi-tech exhibits encourage visitors to explore the earth using a hands-on approach, stretching brain power and imaginations. Outstanding exhibits. An IMAX theater is available at an additional charge.
Cost $28.50

Tour #5 –
Stone Mountain Park
Tuesday, May 21, 1996
6:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m.

Enjoy a Georgia barbecue in the Stone Mountain Park Railroad Pavilion. Barbecued pork and fried chicken are served buffet style from 7:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. We arrive at 6:45 p.m. and a cash bar is available for the social period prior to the meal. After the meal, we will visit the Florida Terrace where reserved seating is provided for the laser light show on the face of the mountain, where the world's largest granite mass contains a carved relief sculpture of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, General Robert E. Lee and General Stonewall Jackson.
Cost $47.00



Tour #6 –
Callaway Gardens and Warm Springs
Wednesday, May 22, 1996
8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

This tour repeats tour number one.
Cost $45.00

Tour #7 –
The Mountains and Golden Panhandlers of Dahlonega.
Wednesday, May 22,1996
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Today we travel to Dahlonega, a small town of 3,000 people in Lumpkin County. More than six million dollars in gold was mined here prior to the Civil War. Experience the high point of this existence at the Dahlonega Gold Museum State Historic Site and enjoy the exhibits of nuggets and pounds of gold dust. A thirty-minute film entitled "Gold Fever" describes mining techniques and prospector lifestyles during the gold rush years.

Lunch and shopping on your own is available in Dahlonega.

After lunch we will travel to Crissons Gold Mine in search of gold and precious gems. This will give us a glimpse of the 19th century and what it must have been like before the metal's value at $35.00 an ounce made mining unprofitable. At Crissons, you'll get your own gem bucket so that you may dig for precious keepsakes.
Cost $38.00

Tour #8 –
Fine Dining
Wednesday, May 22, 1996
6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Tonight we dine at Atlanta's Restaurant "Ray's on the River". Beautifully located on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, this famous restaurant is a local landmark and a favorite place for lunch, happy hour, dinner and an award-winning Sunday Brunch. Live jazz appears in the lounge every Tuesday through Saturday night.

Our menu contains three (3) choices: Prime Rib, Chicken Teriyaki or Baked Garlic Shrimp accompanied by a tossed salad, rice almandine and a vegetable medley. For dessert we will enjoy Chocolate Velvet Pie. Available drink choices include coffee or tea. (Alcoholic beverages are not included.)
Cost $38.00

Tour #9 –
Mid-19th Century Mansions
Thursday, May 23, 1996
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Today we travel to Madison to view life as it was one hundred fifty years ago. In the town General Sherman did not burn, we'll visit pre-Civil War homes which remain virtually intact. This cultural treasure welcomes you with incredible architecture and warm hospitality. Stops include one of the first brick schoolhouses in Georgia, and the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, which includes regional artifacts and decorative art. A tour of the historic Stokes-McHenry home reveals delightful artifacts from an era usually experienced only in books.

We will have lunch on our own with time left for sauntering about in the heart of Madison to sample its quaint shops and to view its extraordinary architecture.

This tour is a must for those who enjoyed "Gone with the Wind". It remains untouched since the Civil War so you can just imagine Scarlett enjoying a concert or attending classes in Madison. An enjoyable and memorable tour day. **Do not forget your camera.**
Cost $37.00

Tour #10 –
Georgia State Botanical Gardens and Winery.
Thursday, May 23, 1996
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Travel to Athens where the first Ladies' Gardens Club was organized. We will visit the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. The International Garden is the newest attraction and the Day Chapel, with it's glass door engraved with dogwood leaves, is breath-taking. In addition to the Conservatory and beautiful cultivated areas, eleven new floral collections await your visit.

At lunchtime, we will stop in downtown Athens, where many eateries and shops await your pleasure.

Our last stop will be the Chateau Elan Winery at Braselton, Georgia for a tour and tasting at Georgia's premier winery. Here you will find restaurants, a wine market, a gift shop and an art gallery.
Cost $21.00

50th Annual AVSA Convention & Show

Sunday, May 19 to Sunday, May 26, 1996

"Fifty Golden Years with Violets"

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1996

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Registration Information	Ashford Room Lobby

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1996

7:00 am to 9:00 am	Registration	Ashford Room
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Information	Lobby
8:30 am to 5:15 pm	**Tour # 1** **"Callaway Gardens, Warm Springs, Georgia"**	Pre-Function Entrance
8:30 am to 5:00 pm	**Tour #2** **Historic Atlanta, Cyclorama, World of Coca-Cola, Underground Atlanta**	Pre-Function Entrance
2:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Registration Information	Ashford Room Lobby
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	President's Reception Reception for Board of Directors	Presidential Suite

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1996

7:00 am to 9:00 am	Registration	Ashford Room
8:00 am to Complete	Executive Committee Meeting & Salary Committee Meeting	Presidential Suite
8:30 am to 12:30 pm	**Tour #3** **"Atlanta Botanical Gardens"**	Pre-Function Entrance
8:30 am to 4:30 pm	**Tour #4** **"Driving Miss Daisy" Druid Hills, Carter Center, Fernbank Museum**	Pre-Function Entrance
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Information	Lobby
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Committee Meetings Affiliate, Advertising, Booster Fund, Commercial Activities, Commercial Sales & Exhibits, Shows & Judges, Membership & Promotion, Publications	Ballroom G
2:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Registration	Ashford Room
2:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Information	Lobby
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Affiliate Presidents Meeting	Dogwood Room
4:00 pm to 4:50 pm	Vice Presidents Meetings with Committee Chairmen: 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President	Ballroom G
6:15 pm to 11:15 pm	**Tour #5** **"Stone Mountain Park, Laser Light Show, BBQ Georgia Style"**	Pre-Function Entrance

7:30 pm to 8:30 pm	Awards/Committee Meeting	Dogwood Room

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1996

7:00 am to 12:00 noon	Registration	Ashford Room
7:30 am to 3:30 pm	Judging School	Azalea Room
8:30 am to 5:15 pm	**Tour #6** **Callaway Gardens, Warm Springs, Georgia**	Pre-Function Entrance
8:30 am to 4:30 pm	**Tour #7** **Mountains and Golden Panhandlers of Dahlonega**	Pre-Function Entrance
9:00 am to 12:000 noon	Information	Lobby
9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Board of Directors Opening Meeting	Maplewood Room
9:00 am to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information & Sales	Pre-Function
10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Membership & Promotion Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table, Ways & Means Table, St. Petersburg Promotional Table	Pre-Function
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm	Board of Directors Luncheon	Azalea Room
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	AVSA Information & Sales	Pre-Function
2:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Registration	Ashford Room
2:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Information	Lobby
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Nominating Committee	Dogwood Room
6:30 pm to 10:30 pm	**Tour #8** **"Ray's on the River" for Dinner**	Pre-Function Entrance
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Classification & Entries **for Convention Workers Only**	Ravinia Ballroom D

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1996

7:00 am to 8:30 am	Teachers Breakfast	Azalea Room
7:00 am to 12:00 noon	Registration	Ashford Room
7:00 am to 7:00 pm	Information	Lobby
8:30 am to 4:30 pm	**Tour #9** **Mid 19th Century Mansions, Madison, Georgia**	Pre-Function Entrance
8:30 am to 4:30 pm	**Tour #10** **Georgia State Botanical Gardens, Chateau Elan Winery**	Pre-Function Entrance
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Hospitality Room	To Be Announced
9:00 am to 11:30 am	Classifications & Entries	Ravinia Ballroom D
9:00 am to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information & Sales	Pre-Function
9:00 am to 9:00 pm	Commercial Sales Open	Dunwoody Suite
10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Membership & Promotion Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table, Ways & Means Table, St. Petersburg Promotional Table	Pre-Function
12:30 pm to 6:00 pm	Classifications & Entries	Ravinia Ballroom D
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	AVSA Information Sales	Pre-Function
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Hospitality Room	To Be Announced
2:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Registration	Ashford Room
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Future Conventions Meeting	Convention Director's Ste.

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Entries for ***Those on tours Only***	Ravinia Ballroom D
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	**Presentation #1** **"Let Me Tell You About My Violets!" A Growers Forum** (formerly Beginners Forum)	Ballroom G
8:00 pm to Comp.	"It Brings Back Memories" Contest, Social Hour & Slides (1 showing)	Ballroom G
8:30 pm to Complete	Board of Directors Meeting (if necessary)	Maplewood Room
11:00 pm	Design work will close for the night	Ravinia Ballroom I

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1996

7:00 am to 5:00 pm	Registration	Ashford Room
7:00 am to 5:00 pm	Information	Lobby
7:00 am to 8:00 am	Design Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs for **replacement of blossoms only**	Ravinia Ballroom I
7:00 am to 9:00 am	Commercial Members Breakfast	Camellia Room
9:00 am to 10:00 am	Instructions for judging & clerking for the show	Azalea Room
9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Commercial Sales Open	Dunwoody Suite
9:00 am to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information & Sales	Pre-Function
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Hospitality Room	To be announced
9:30 am to 11:00 am	**Presentation #2** **"Growing for the Gold"** Producing Show Plants by Rita Hilton	Ravinia Ballroom II
9:30 am to 11:00 am	**Presentation #3** **"Pest Olympiad: How you can Win the Race-Pest Control"** by Dr. Charles Cole	Maplewood Room
10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Membership & Promotion Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table, Ways & Means Table, St. Petersburg Promotional Table	Pre-Function
10:00 am to complete	Judging of Show	Ravinia Ballroom I
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	**Presentation #4** **"All in the Family" The "Other" Gesneriads** by JoAnne Martinez & Barbara Matthews	Ravinia Ballroom II
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	**Presentation #5** **"And Now – The Rest of the Story" Update on the Space Babies** by Reinhold Holtkamp Sr. & Reinhold Holtkamp, Jr.	Maplewood Room
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	AVSA Information & Sales	Pre-Function
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Hospitality Room	To be announced
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm	**Presentation #6** **"A Little Southern Charm" all about Miniatures** by Barbara Strock & Louise Merritt	Ravinia Ballroom II
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm	**Presentation #7** **"Trailers Can Win Gold Medals, Too"** by Susan Bradley	Maplewood Room
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm	**Presentation #8** **"Pest Olympiad: How you can Win the Race-Pest Control"** by Dr. Charles Cole for Japanese Attendees	Gardenia Room
4:30 pm to complete	Photography – Library and AVM	Ravinia Ballroom I

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm	Opening Reception (cash bar)	Pre-Function
6:30 pm to complete	Opening Dinner – Show Awards will be presented	Ravinia Ballroom II
9:30 pm to 12:00 am	Show open to **AVSA CONVENTION REGISTRANTS ONLY**	Ravinia Ballroom I

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1996

7:15 am to 9:00 am	Judges Breakfast & Workshop	Ravinia Ballroom E
8:00 am to 1:00 pm	Registration	Ashford Room
8:00 am to 1:00 pm	Information	Lobby
9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Show Room open to Convention Registrants and the Public	Ravinia Ballroom I
9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Commercial Sales Open	Dunwoody Suite
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	AVSA Information and Sales	Pre-Function
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Hospitality Room	To be announced
9:00 am to 10:30 am	**Presentation #9** **"Hungry Athletes"** by Dr. Charles Cole on plant hunger	Azalea Room
9:00 am to 10:30 am	**Presentation #8** **"Design Dexterity"** by Bob L. Green	Maplewood Room
10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Membership & Promotion Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table, Ways & Means Table, St. Petersburg Promotional Table	Pre-Function
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	New Introductions Luncheon (slides)	Ravinia Ballroom G
12:30 pm to 2:00 pm	New Introductions Luncheon (slides with Japanese trans.)	Gardenia Room
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open	To be announced
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transporting into controlled countries and states	Dogwood Room
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	AVSA Information and Sales	Pre-Function
2:30 pm to 4:15 pm	Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum	Ravinia Ballroom G
5:30 pm to 6:45 pm	President's Reception and Hospitality Hour (meet-congratulate show winners) (Non-alcoholic punch provided) (cash bar)	Pre-Function
6:45 pm to complete	Grand Finalé Banquet and Entertainment Awards to be presented; Tinari Greenhouse's Membership Award, Publication Awards, Honorary Society Awards	Ravinia Ballroom II
9:45 pm to 10:15 pm	Show Room Open	Ravinia Ballroom I
10:00 pm to 12:00 mid.	Commercial Sales Breakdown	Dunwoody Suite
10:30 pm	Instructions of entry check out	Pre-Function
10:30 pm to 12:00 mid.	***All entries checked out***	Pre-Function

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1996

6:00 am to 12:00 noon	Commercial Sales Breakdown	Dunwoody Suite
6:00 am to 12:00 noon	Local Storage Clean-up	Oakwood A
6:00 am to 12:00 noon	Commercial Storage Clean-up	Oakwood B
6:00 am to 12:00 noon	Show Room Clean-up	Ravinia I
9:00 am to complete	Board of Directors Meeting	Maplewood Room

AVSA 1996 ATLANTA CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

1. **"Will the African Violet Survive in the Wild?"**
Thursday, May 23, 1996 6:15 - 7:00 pm
By Carter Coleman of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

2. **"Let Me Tell You About My Violets"** Growers Forum
Thursday, May 23, 1996 7 pm
Moderator Mary A. Boland
Panelists Sidney Sorano, Dr. Jeff Smith, Anne Tinari and Dr. Charles Cole

This is YOUR opportunity to "ask the experts." If you have questions about any aspect of growing African violets and the other Gesneriads – horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques, and perhaps even using African violets in designs – don't miss this opportunity. This forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.

3. **"Growing For The Gold"** Producing Show Plants
Friday, May 24, 1996 9:30 am to 11:00 am
By Rita Hilton, of Bartow, Florida

Whether in the Olympics – or an African violet show – we are interested in the Gold Medal, that Best-in-Show Award. A top-award winner in every show she enters, whether horticulture or design, Rita will show us how it can be possible for YOU to win Best in Show. Rita is a former AVSA director and has served on many AVSA committees. She is past president of the African Violet Council of Florida and of Mid-Polk African Violet Society. She is an active member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and is in constant demand as a speaker. She will give us some down-to-earth advice and tips on developing show plants.

4. **"Pest Olympiad: How YOU Can Win The Race",** (Pest Control)
Friday, May 24, 1996 9:30 am to 11:00 am
By Dr. Charles Cole, Research Entomologist,Texas A&M Univ.

Sometimes our "race" against disease and pests seems hopeless. Dr. Cole, author of many articles on the subject of pests and diseases, including his own book, *"Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets,"* will give us practical help in identifying and treating pests and diseases which invade our African violet collections. Dr. Cole will autograph his book which will be sold at the convention or can be purchased from the AVSA office in Beaumont, Texas.

5. **"All in the Family"** The "Other" Gesneriads
Friday, May 24, 1996 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
By JoAnne Martinez and Barbara Matthews, Tampa, Florida

African violets make up just a small part of the gesneriad family. Here's an opportunity for YOU to get acquainted with some of the other family members. JoAnne Martinez and Barbara Matthews will demonstrate how to grow and show some of the "other" gesneriads. Barbara and JoAnne are members of the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, of which JoAnne serves as President. Both are members of American Gesneriad and Gloxinia Society and Gesneriad Society International.

6. **"And Now – The Rest Of The Story"**
Update on the Space Babies
Friday, May 24, 1996 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
By Reinhold Holtkamp, Jr., and Reinhold Holtkamp, Sr., of Holtkamp Greenhouses, Nashville, Tennessee

In 1984, Holtkamp Greenhouses prepared 25,000 Optimara African Violet seeds for a journey orbiting the earth in a NASA Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF) which was released into space by the CHALLENGER space shuttle. We are all familiar with the CHALLENGER disaster, but the LDEF orbited the earth until December 1990 – almost six years in space! What happened to those African violet seeds? The Holtkamps will bring us up-to-date on the story.

7. **"A Little Southern Charm"** All About Miniatures
Friday, May 24, 1996 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
By Barbara Strock, Elmore, Alabama, and Louise Merritt, Pensacola, Florida

Both Barbara and Louise have been growing African violets for many years and both have been specializing in miniatures. Barbara became an AVSA member in 1977. She is a Senior Judge, member and current President of Capital City African Violet Society in Montgomery, Alabama, and a Life Member of Dixie African Violet Society. Louise, an AVSA member since 1975, is a charter member of AVS of Pensacola and member of the Alabama AV Judges Council, a Senior Judge, and is a member of the National Council of Garden Clubs. Although Louise grows all types of African violets and some of the "other" gesneriads, she favors the miniatures and semiminiatures.

8. **"Trailers Can Win Gold Medals, Too"**
Friday, May 24, 1996 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
By Susan Bradley, of Atlanta, GA

Although Susan grows all forms and sizes of African violets, she specializes in trailers and single-crown semiminiatures. Susan is a graduate student working on a Ph.D. in history at Emory University, having previously earned a B.A. and an M.A. in history from Rice University in Houston, Texas. While doing graduate work in Houston, Susan was a member of the Spring Branch African Violet Club. Now living in Atlanta, she is a member of the African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta. Susan will share her secrets for successfully growing and showing African violet trailers.

9. **"Pest Olympiad: How YOU Can Win The Race"**
(Pest Control) With Japanese Translation for Japanese Attendees
Friday, May 24, 1996 3 pm to 4:30 pm
By Dr. Charles Cole, Research Entomologist, Texas A&M Univ.

Sometimes our "race" against disease and pests seems hopeless. Dr. Cole, author of many articles on the subject of pests and diseases, including his own book, *"Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets,"* will give us practical help in identifying and treating pests and diseases which invade our African violet collections. Dr. Cole will autograph his book which will be sold at the convention or can be purchased from the AVSA office in Beaumont, TX.

10. **"Hungry Athletes"** Plant Hunger
Saturday, May 25, 1996 9:00 am to 10:30 am
By Dr. Charles Cole, Research Entomologist, Texas A&M Univ.

Many plant deficiencies and toxicities have characteristics which are similar to pest damage. This slide program will help us recognize and treat our plants properly.

11. **"Design Dexterity"**
Saturday, May 25, 1996 9:00 am to 10:30 am
By Bob L. Green of Rockledge, FL

All of us who enjoy "dabbling" in design would love to be as proficient and innovative as Bob Green. Bob has been "doing" design for many years, and has won the tri-color award (Best in Design) more times than many of us have even entered a show. Bob is Affiliate Chair for AVSA and is a member of the Shows & Judges Committee. He has authored many articles on the subject of Design for the African Violet Magazine, The Dixie News. The Florida Connection, and other regional and statewide magazines and newsletters, and continues to be a popular speaker and work-

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

50th Annual Convention & Show
May 19 - 26, 1996 - Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, Georgia

Call for 1996 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, May 25, 1996, at 2:30 pm, at The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta,GA for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

Call for 1996 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, May 22, 1996, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Thursday, May 23,1996, 8:30 pm until complete and Sunday, May 26, 1996, 9:00 am to complete at The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, GA for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

Call for 1996 Open Forum Meeting

The eleventh annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, May 25, 1996, at The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, GA. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

Registration For Judging School
For New Students and Certificate Renewals

AVSA Convention — Atlanta, Georgia
Wednesday, May 22, 1996 — Teacher: Bob Green

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's test and for AVSA judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am - 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is $7.50, payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Judging Status: Student (1st exam)____ Student (renewal)____

Advanced____ Auditing____

Complete this form (or facsimilie) and mail, with registration fee of $7.50 (make check payable to AVSA) to Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955, by April 25, 1996. The test will be based on the latest edition of the Handbook with all updates. The Handbook, 1994 printing, which includes all updates through December 1994, is available from the AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. The cost of the handbook is $10.25.

REGISTRATION FOR THE JUDGING SCHOOL MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 25. 1996.

Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge in the Atlanta convention Show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form below and mail to: Mr. Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150. **These must be post marked no later than April 1, 1996.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which class or classes you plan to enter. DO NOT serve on entries, classification or placement if you apply to judge. Please indicate below if you are experienced in any of the areas listed. If accepted, you will receive notification of assignment. Applications received after April 15, 1996, will be filed in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies.

Name _____

Address _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge: ____Advanced ____Senior ____Master ____AGGS ____Nat'l Council

Experience: ____Minis/Semiminis ____Trailers ____Species ____Design ____Commercial

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Attention Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the Atlanta Convention Show. Any vacancies may be filled by other AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any positions remaining will be filled by members in the order in which applications are received. All clerks will receive a letter of notification, explaining their respective duties. If you would like to clerk, please complete the form below and mail to: Mr. Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150. These applications must be post marked no later than April 15, 1996.

Name _____

Address _____

____Student Judge ____Advanced Judge ____Master Judge ____AVSA Member

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Design Division Reservations

(Please Print)
Name _____

Address and phone _____

I would like to enter the following design classes: (Limit six, excluding container gardens)

1.____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.____ 5.____ 6.____

Alternate Choices: 1.____ 2.____ 3.____

I would like to enter container gardens in the following classes: 1.____ 2.____ 3.____

Entries will be accepted ONLY, if postmarked March 1, 1996 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Reservations will be on a first come basis. Please print your name, address and telephone number so if there are cancellations or additional openings, exhibitors may be notified. Send reservation **no later than April 15, 1996**, to: Beverly Moffatt, 4183 Quinn Drive, Evans, GA 30809. Exhibitors wishing to cancel reservations **must write** Mrs. Moffatt or call (706) 863-2661.

AVSA's 50th Annual Convention & Show
"Fifty Golden Years with Violets"
May 19-26, 1996 – The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, Georgia

AVSA Convention Registration Form

NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form. Xerox copies may be used if more are needed.
Please send this completed pre-registration form with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to the Atlanta Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office – 2375 North, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by ***April 15, 1996***. There will be a $5.00 paper work fee charged for cancellations. Registrations received after April 24, 1996 will be $40.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

_____
Membership #

_____
Last Name First Initial Area Code/Phone #

_____
Street or P.O. Box Apt. # City/State Zip

Names of Spouse/Guests/Children if attending Convention _____

(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest or child attending. Xerox copies may be used)

____AVSA Member (Pre-registration $35.00) ____Non-Member (Pre-registration $38.00)
After April 24, 1996, each registration will be $40.00 or $43.00 respectively.

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

(A) Individual Member	(E) Judge	(I) Judging School Teacher	(M) Non-Member (guest)
(B) Life member	(F) Senior Judge	(J) Bronze Medal Winner	
(C) Honorary Life Member	(G) Master Judge	(K) Board Member	
(D) Associate Member	(H) Commercial Member	(L) Affiliate President	

This is my (#) _____ convention Name to go on Badge _____
(Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in also.)

____**Yes** ____**No** **Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?**
(If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? _____
Name

_____
Relationship Address City/State Area Code/Phone #

TRAVEL BY:
Personal Car____
Rental Car____
Other____
RV____
Plane____

_____
Airline

_____
Arrival/date and time

_____
Departure/date and time

ACCOMMODATIONS:
The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza _____

Other _____

Convention Registration:

AVSA or Associate Member	$35.00	$_____
AVSA or Associate Member (after April 24, 1996)	$40.00	$_____
Non-Member (Guest)	$38.00	$_____
Non-Member (Guest) (after April 24, 1996)	$43.00	$_____
	TOTAL REGISTRATION	$_____

Meals:
PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) ***MUST*** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE IN THE SAME ENVELOPE **BEFORE April 24, 1996.** WE ARE SORRY, But, **THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

_____1. Wed.	May 22	Board of Directors Luncheon-Croissant Club .....$14.50 Spouses Welcome	$_____
_____2. Thurs.,	May 23	Teachers' Breakfast - (Country Start Breakfast) $13.00	$_____
_____3. Fri.,	May 24	Commercial Breakfast - (Enhanced Continental Buffet) $14.00	$_____
_____4. Fri.,	May 24	Opening Dinner "The Road To Tara" (Southern Grilled Pork Chops) Entertainment: "Gone With The Wind" Contest $28.00	$_____
_____5. Sat.,	May 25	Judges Breakfast (Traditional Breakfast) .....$13.50 Not restricted to Judges	$_____
_____6. Sat.,	May 25	Luncheon (Grilled Chicken Salad) .....$18.00 Program - New Introduction Slides	$_____
_____7. Sat.,	May 25	Luncheon (Grilled Chicken Salad) .....$18.00 Program - New Introduction Slides - Japanese translation	$_____
_____8. Sat.,	May 25	"Golden Years with Violets" Dinner, Roasted-Stuffed Chicken Breast .$32.50 Entertainment - A Walk Down Memory Lane	$_____
		TOTAL MEALS	$_____

TOURS: (** Asterisk denotes Meals included in price of Tour)

_____ 1.	Mon., May 20	Callaway Gardens and Warms Springs, Georgia**	$45.00	$_____
_____ 2.	Mon., May 20	Historic Atlanta, Cyclorama. World of Coca Cola, Underground Atlanta	$29.00	$_____
_____ 3.	Tues., May 21	Atlanta Botanical Gardens	$17.00	$_____
_____ 4.	Tues., May 21	Driving Miss Daisy, Druid Hills, Carter Center, Fernbank Museum	$28.50	$_____
_____ 5.	Tues., May 21	Stone Mountain Park, Laser Light Show, BBQ Georgia Style**	$47.00	$_____
_____ 6.	Wed., May 22	Callaway Gardens, Warms Springs, Georgia**	$45.00	$_____
_____ 7.	Wed., May 22	The Mountains and Golden Panhandlers of Dahlonega	$38.00	$_____
_____ 8.	Wed., May 22	Fine Dining, Ray's on the River**	$38.00	$_____
		Note: You must check one of the following choices:		
		(1) Prime Rib _____		
		(2) Chicken Teriyaki _____		
		(3) Baked Garlic Shrimp _____		
_____ 9.	Thurs. May 23	Mid 19th Century Mansions	$37.00	$_____
_____10.	Thurs., May 23	Georgia State Botanical Gardens and Winery	$21.00	$_____

TOTAL TOURS $_____

*Meal is served

We reserve the right of cancellation if minimum number is not met.

PRESENTATIONS: (Please check presentations which you wish to attend)
(Tickets **will not** be used this year. We request your indicating which presentations you will attend for our planning purposes)

Thursday, May 23

_____1. 6:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	"Will the African Violet Survive in the Wild?" by Carter Coleman
_____2. 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	"Let Me Tell You About My Violets" Moderator: Mary Boland Panel: Sidney Sorano, Dr. Jeff Smith Anne Tinari, Dr. Charles Cole.

Friday, May 24

_____3. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	"Growing For The Gold", by Rita Hilton
_____4. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	"Pest Olympiad: How you can Win the Race-Pest Control" by Dr. Charles Cole.
_____5. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	"All in the Family", The "Other" Gesneriads by JoAnne Martinez and Barbara Matthews
_____6. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	"And Now - The Rest of the Story" Update on the Space Babies by Reinhold Holtkamp Sr. and Reinhold Holtkamp, Jr.
_____7. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	"A Little Southern Charm", all about Miniatures by Barbara Strock and Louise Merritt
_____8. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	"Trailers Can Win Gold Medals Too", by Susan Bradley
_____9. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	"Pest Olympiad: How You can Win the Race-Pest Control" by Dr. Charles Cole FOR JAPANESE ATTENDEES

Saturday, May 25

_____10. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	"Hungry Athletes", Plant Hunger, by Dr. Charles Cole
_____11. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	"Design Dexterity", by Bob Green

PAYMENT:

Send payment and completed registration form to:

AVSA Office
2375 North St.
Beaumont, TX 77702-1722
(409) 839-4725

Note: Please double check to insure all numbers are listed correctly
Check one:

Total Registration $_____

Total Meals $_____

Total Tours $_____

TOTAL
PAYMENT ENCLOSED $_____

_____ Visa #_____

Expires _____

_____ MasterCard # _____

Expires _____

_____ Check or Money Order Enclosed

NOTE: Cancellations must be received
by April 15, 1996 to be entitled to a refund.
There will be a $5.00 fee for all cancellations.

_____
Signature (If using card)

CROWNE PLAZA
RAVINIA

Hotel Reservation

1996 AVSA Convention, Show and Annual Membership Meeting

Please mail to:
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia
4355 Ashford-Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30346
1-800-554-0055 or (404) 395-7700
Fax (404) 392-9503

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
Group Number AV

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

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Make check or money order payable to **Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia**. Do not send currency. To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means of payment:

____ One Night's Deposit Enclosed ____ MasterCard ____ Carte Blanche
____ American Express ____ Visa
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Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival . To cancel, phone - **Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia**. Phone number: 1-800-554-0055 or 1-404-395-7700.

Room Rate:	$79.00	Single, Double
	$79.00	Triple
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	10%	City & Hotel Tax

Suite rates available upon request - through sales office

Accomodations requested:
____ Single
____ Double (two persons)
____ Triple (three persons)
____ Quad (four persons)
____ Smoking ____ Non Smoking

____ number of persons in room
Arrival Date _____
(check in 3 :00 pm)

Departure Date _____
(check out by noon)

Bed types available: double, king (upon request)
Room rates subject to ***City & Hotel Tax.***
Reservations **must** be received by: ***April 25. 1996.*** The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

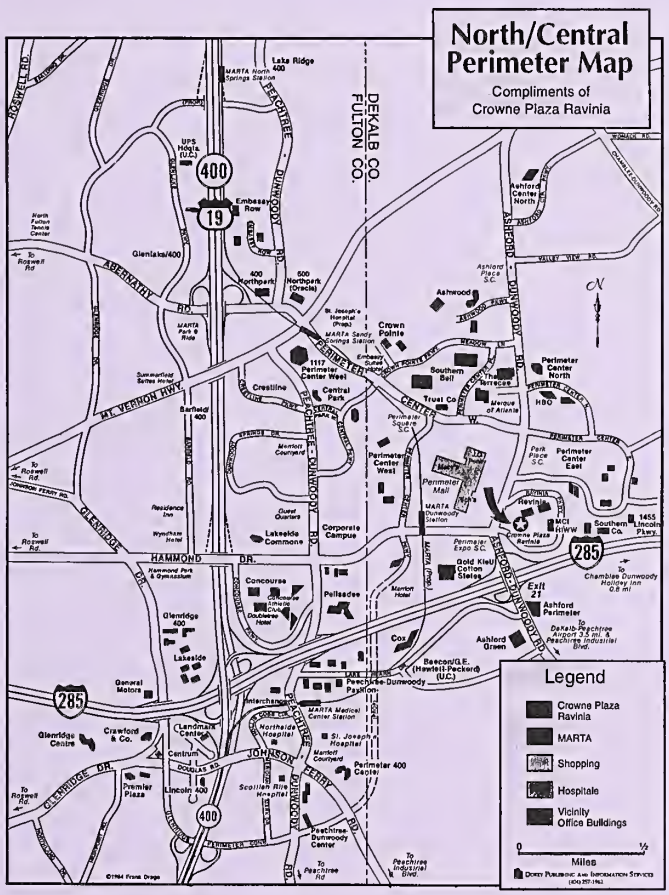
PARKING: The parking garage at the hotel is under the convention area of the hotel as shown in the map. Turn right off of Ashford-Dunwoody and then left into the hotel driveway. Follow the signs to the parking deck. Parking is complimentary.

AIRPORT: Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport is located close to downtown Atlanta between I-85, I-75, and Loop I-285 for those of you renting cars at the airport.

SHUTTLE: The airport connection shuttle is $17 one way and $30 round trip.

TAXI: One way trip airport to the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza is approximately $45 to $50.

MARTA (rapid transit): Airport to nearest station Chamblee is $1.25 and the taxi from the station to the hotel is $8 to $10.



Hosts - Hostesses

If you would like to help at the convention in Atlanta by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below, by April 15, 1996 to:

Host/Hostesses Coupon

Mrs. Albert (Sarah) McGaha
4925 Howard Road
Cumming, GA 30130

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You could be the lucky recipient of a free registration for the convention!

Here is all you must do to qualify:

1. Send your registration into the AVSA office by March 1, 1996.
2. The names of those registering early will qualify for a drawing for a free convention registration.
3. ***Two*** registrants names will be drawn during the Annual Meeting on Saturday afternoon.
4. You must be present to win.

Good luck! And happy conventioning.

FREE HOTEL NIGHT!

Yes, it is true! AVSA is offering one sleeping room night free!

Here are the particulars:

If your hotel registration is received by the Holiday Inn prior to April 25th, your name will be placed in a drawing.

During the Annual Meeting on Saturday afternoon, a name will be drawn and someone will be the lucky recipient of one night's free lodging during the convention.

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Age _____ Under 25 _____ 26-50 _____ 51 and Over

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Any other considerations: _____

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_____

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact Ruth immediately.

All requests must be made by April 15, 1996, so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is April 25, 1996.

Please send requests to: Ruth E. Warren, 1534 Robeson St, Fall River, MA 02720, (508) 679-1189.

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Hybridizer: **Volkman**

Volkman Brothers Greenhouses

Unorthodox Procedures

by Frank Martin
Seattle, WA

Call me eccentric, but a sponge, a spray bottle, a paper towel, and a flea collar are the keystones of my violet paraphernalia. There was a time when these tools were better employed in canine cleanup exercises. But as my little dog reminded me when he lay with his head in the violet tray, his flea collar causing an entire herd of aphids to expire within minutes, a tool may have more than one useful purpose. "If plants can wear training collars, why not a flea collar?," I reasoned, and decked out the tray with one of its own, placed strategically in the center. I have never tried placing a flea collar about the pot itself, mainly because I have too many plants for this. I don't know how it works on pests other than fleas, ticks, or aphids, and have not yet had occasion to find out.

Before this episode, I did have a little problem with fungus gnats, which was solved by the addition of beneficial nematodes to the soil. They are invisible and were packaged in a solution of vermiculite and water. To apply them required me to believe, or at least hope, that they were actually there and that they were strict carnivores who would not partake of plant fibers. My faith was rewarded with healthy, gnatless violets. The thrips just seemed to die out after disbudding, months without blooms, and the simple washing of leaves.

Another of my eccentricities involves the rooting of leaves in water, a method some avoid due to poor growth of resulting plantlets when potted up. My spray bottle and paper towels have eliminated this problem entirely. The wet clump of roots that looked so delicately ornate in the water a moment before must be dried a bit on the towel, then fanned out by hand. This requires care and gentleness. The goal is to achieve a design that will fill out the pot. Next, the spray bottle is employed to moisten the amount of potting soil to be used. I have often found store-bought African Violet soil to be so dry that it won't retain water without first being sprayed and stirred.

Once fanned, and their soil moistened, water-grown roots can obtain their customary amount of water and nutrients and grow on without setback. The moistening makes it unnecessary to water the plant right after potting, but it may be done provided care is taken not to overwater. I not only let the pot drain but also set it on a sponge. This draws out the excess water and is an excellent means of achieving just the right degree of wetness at every watering. The size of my violet collection requires the use of several sponges so as to avoid long lines at the watering can, but to the dedicated violeteer, supplies are no object.

So call me an eccentric: I mist the soil, I towel dry the roots, I sponge water from the pot, and my violets have a flea collar. But my plants and I are happy, and that's what counts.

In Memory

CATHERINE HAWLEY
Catherine "Katie" Hawley of Ohio, passed away recently. A former AVSA Director and Question Box columnist, she also was a former editor of the Newsletter, official publication of the Ohio State AVS. Katie was an honorary member of the Town and Country AVS and a member of the Columbus and Ohio State AV Societies.

ARMIDA WALLER
The Town and Country AVC of Minot, ND is deeply saddened by the loss of long-time member and past president, Armida Waller. Always ready to serve her club, Armida accepted the office as president at the age of 84 and served well for three years.

DEE STRZELECKI
Dee Strzelecki of Springfield, PA passed away in August of this year. Always interested in learning more about African violets, Dee was a dedicated worker and served as Recording Secretary of the Springfield AVC.

Wick Watering

by Mary Ann Switzer
Chesterfield, MO

Wick watering is a convenient and automatic way to successfully water your African violet collection. It is especially beneficial if you like to travel, because you can leave the plants unattended for two weeks, or longer, if you have someone come in and refill your reservoirs.

The Theory

Wick watering relies on capillary action as a working principle. The potted plant sits on top of a reservoir of water, and a short length of wick draws water upward from the reservoir into the soil through the drainage hole in the pot.

The Equipment

One pleasant aspect of this system is that there is no expensive equipment to buy. You continue to use the pot that you normally grow with (I prefer plastic pots). You will need a wick. I use a 6″ strand of nylon seine twine. This is sold in hardware stores and used by fishermen. If this is not available, you could also use several strands of polyester acrylic knitting yarn braided together, or a similar length of nylon pantyhose (cut a piece 3″ by 6″). It is important to use a synthetic material, because a natural material, such as cotton or wool would eventually rot. Finally, you need a reservoir. Although you can order clear plastic reservoirs from AV supply houses, you may already have suitable containers around the house, i.e. margarine tubs, cottage cheese tubs, etc.

The Method

Cut a hole in the center of the lid of your reservoir for the wick to go through. Make it about the size of a small coin. Cut a wick about 6″ long and fray both ends. Drop the wick into the pot and spread the frayed end around the bottom inside the pot. Add your soil, using a loose porous soil or soilless mix. Do not add a drainage layer of pebbles or charcoal over the frayed wick. Pot your plant as usual. Fill the reservoir with fertilizer water, using a water-soluble plant food at 1/4 strength. Place the pot on top with the wick hanging down into the water. Now, top water the violet so that water drains down through the pot, down the wick, into the water in the reservoir. The capillary action is now established and all you need to do is refill the reservoir from time to time. If by accident you let it go dry, you will have to top water again to re-establish the capillary action.

Since your plants are being watered and fed from the bottom, eventually fertilizer salts will rise to the soil surface. About every 6 weeks it's a good idea to drench the potted violet with plain water. Hold the plant over a bucket and top water, letting the water drain through the pot. Discard this water, and place the wicked plant back on its reservoir.

Tools of the Trade

by Adelle Johnson

1. *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges*
2. Variety of pot sizes—preferably white
3. Teaspoon and tablespoon for measuring
4. Sharp knife for cutting
5. Nut pick or discarded dental tool, for removing suckers
6. Soft artist brush for cleaning leaves
7. Embroidery hoops—6″ and 8″ for measuring miniatures and semi-miniatures
8. Sharp pencil, which helps in removing suckers
9. Sanford's Sharpie pen for writing name of plant on pot
10. Scissors
11. Long-handled tweezers
12. Soda straws or plant picks, to help train leaves
13. Eyedropper
14. Up-to-date copy of Master Variety List
15. Membership cards for AVSA and your local affiliated club
16. Latest catalogs—to drool over
17. A good-natured mate like your husband

From "AV Leaves" Publication of the Illinois AVS

Observations on Growing and Breeding the Yellows

Dr. Jeff Smith • Indiana Academy • Ball State University

The "yellow" African violets made their public appearance at the African Violet Society National Convention in Columbus, Ohio in 1992. The yellows were a long-time dream of violet growers. This flower color had been searched for from the beginning of the plant's cultivation in this country in the 1940's. Since the introduction and release of the yellows, many African violet growers have been trying to grow this new color and figure out how to make it perform well. There have been many disappointments. However, with an understanding about the cultural requirements of the yellows, it is possible for them to be grown well. The purpose of this article is share some of my observations and experiences in growing the "yellows" and to mention some of the problems I've encountered in breeding them.

One of the first comments I hear from growers who have not seen the yellows before is "where's the yellow?" None of the yellow flowered African violets are the pure canary yellow color we dreamed of and would like to have. Most of the yellow cultivars so far have white flowers with yellow streaking or yellow eyes in the center. A very few cultivars have another color (usually pink) with a yellow overlay in the center. The amount of yellow can be extremely variable and changes with the age of the plant, the cultural conditions and other factors. In most plants, the first blooms on a young plant will be nearly pure white. The amount of yellow will usually increase as the plant matures and grows larger. In full-sized plants, the amount of yellow will also increase as the flowers age. In other words, be patient; the yellow will develop as the plant and the flowers get older.

Another factor that will affect the amount of yellow in the blooms appears to be the temperature in the growing area. I've observed in my plant room that the amount of yellow is greater in plants grown under cooler conditions compared to those grown in warmer areas of the light stands. I've also observed a change over the seasons of the year in the amount of yellow produced. The best yellow color usually develops during the cooler seasons of winter and spring compared to the warmer times of summer and fall. The results in your climate and plant growing area may be somewhat different. You might want to experiment and place the yellow cultivars on the lower shelves of the light stands where it is cooler or put the plants in a cooler room to see if this will increase the amount of yellow color produced in the flowers.

Yellows can be grown under natural light conditions, but don't expect the amount of yellow in the blooms to be as intense as in plants grown under artificial lighting. Natural light seems to wash-out some of the color or inhibit the yellow pigment production and the blooms are often more white than yellow. Natural light may also decrease the amount of yellow because these areas often have higher temperatures which may further limit the amount of yellow coloration.

Don't be surprised if some of the flowers of the yellow cultivars occasionally show other colors besides yellow. Some of the early yellow cultivars (e.g. 'Majesty') will show some pink to red coloration in their blooms. Some of the yellow cultivars will also occasionally produce blue fantasy dots. The non-yellow colors and the fantasy dots reflect the genetic ancestry of the plants and usually appear as the plant ages. The other colors may also be an indication that the plant is extremely happy with its cultural conditions as they tend to be produced under optimal water and fertilizer conditions as well.

It is interesting to me as a hybridizer that the fantasy trait seems to be linked to yellow flower color. Many of my crosses using yellows

as a parent have produced fantasy flowered offspring. In most cases, the offspring have been self fantasies, those with two contrasting shades of the same color. In a few crosses, the offspring have been a pink with blue fantasy dots. I have not observed any occurrence of yellow with the puff or reverse style fantasies, however, but these types may also be possible. It's too bad that the leaf cuttings from these plants don't seem to produce solid color offspring as often happens with the fantasy flowered plants. This would seem to be an ideal way to produce a pure canary yellow color, but the fantasy trait seems to be distressingly stable in this instance.

One sport that I have found that may be an expression of the fantasy pattern in yellow is a plant of 'Majesty'. This sport has red backed leaves and produces pink self-fantasy blooms. The yellow pigment is still present, however, and is overlaid on the flowers. The mixture of the two shades of pink and the yellow often gives apricot and warm orange shades in the flowers. The combination is striking and varies from flower to flower. This plant was awarded best sport or seedling in the Indiana State African Violet show in 1995. Babies produced from leaf cuttings and suckers are currently undergoing testing for color stability. Perhaps other sports or mutants in the yellow cultivars will produce flowers of orange or true red.

Another thing that I've observed in hybridizing the yellows is that a high number of the offspring produce abnormal flowers. In some cases the flowers lack stamens or have abnormal pistils. In other cases, the petals are distorted and unusually shaped. Sometimes the petals look like they have had pieces bitten out of the edges. The abnormal petals are often linked with the more intensive yellow colors, suggesting that the mutation that produces the yellow pigment has a secondary effect on petal formation and shape. The more yellow pigment that is produced, the more the petals are distorted. It has been a real breeding problem to intensify the amount of yellow in the bloom, yet maintain the shape of the petals. Fortunately, a few offspring have been found that have a pleasant combination of petal shape and yellow coloration. Unfortunately, my most intense yellow flowered plant to date has flowers that are single and drop! Eventually I hope to get all of the "good" characteristics into a single plant, but it has definitely been a challenge to breed such a plant.

One observation about growing the yellows is that the plants seem to prefer VERY low light levels. I've had problems with several yellow cultivars growing extremely tight centers under normal lighting conditions. I've had to remove some of the middle layers of leaves in order to open the crown and get normal growth. The problem was decreased if the plant is grown at the ends of the light tubes or in other areas of low light. In a few cases, I've actually moved the plants off the light stand and on to the floor in order to get the centers to open up. Growing the plants at the lower light levels may have a secondary benefit of reducing the temperature and improving the amount of yellow color that develops in the flowers. You may need to experiment to find the best growing conditions in your home for the cooler, lower light areas that the yellows seem to prefer.

Be very careful about using sprays around your yellow-flowered plants. The blooms seem very susceptible to damage, even from relatively safe pesticides like Bio-Neem. I've gotten burned flowers on the yellow plants when everything else on the shelf wasn't damaged. The leaves of the plants seem to tolerate the chemicals just fine, but the blooms seem to damage easily.

Ivory flower color (such as in 'Playful Dreamer') is related to the yellow flower color. Both color groups appear to have similar cultural requirements. For example, the flowers of both groups are susceptible to damage from sprays. The major difference I've noticed is that ivory-flowered plants seem to have their best color development at warmer temperatures, rather than cool. The pink edges on the ivory plants intensify with cooler temperatures, so selecting different temperatures can change the amount of ivory color present in the flower. Whereas you might place a yellow cultivar in a cool place to bring out the yellow color, place an ivory-colored cultivar in a warm place to intensify the amount of ivory pigment.

In summary, the yellow and ivory plants do have some extra demands in order to get them to perform well. They have not yet been bred to be as sturdy as some of the plants growers have become accustomed to over recent years. While we wait for those plants to be developed, we must work with the yellow cultivars that are currently available. With these plants, given time, understanding, and correct growing conditions, there is little reason why show-worthy specimens of yellows and ivories cannot be grown and proudly displayed. The recent yellow cultivars have made many nice improvements over the plants released in 1992. As hybridization efforts continue, we can only hope that plants will eventually be produced that have the desired combination of traits we wish them to have.

OVER THE EDGE

by Andrea L. Worrell
Downers Grove, IL

You may not remember the day the addiction started, the moment you were bitten by the violet-bug, or your first glimpse into the African Violet magazine, but attending your first national violet convention is unforgettable.

Those of us lucky enough to appreciate the beauty of the African violet often follow the urge to advance from casual growers to active showers. In the process we read the AVM, rushing to see the too few, but always lovely, pictures of gorgeous violets - some you've always wanted to see, some you may even own.

We order violet lists, then plants - never as many as we would like, and anxiously await their arrival. We raise them into what we believe to be beautiful show-quality plants, as some are. We may even be bold enough to enter in a local or state show, which in itself is exciting.

But nothing can prepare the first-timer for their initial exhilarating glimpse into the violet showroom of a national show; a spectacular arena of the most vivid, radiant blooms surrounded by lush, tropical foliage as far as the eye can see.

Walking through the showroom doors at the national convention this year in St. Louis, I could have easily stood mesmerized by the view before me, were I not allowing myself to be carried along by the flow of eager spectators.

Dazed with excitement, I felt like a six year old at Disneyland for the first time. I was truly overwhelmed by what I saw. I have heard it referred to as going into "violet overload."

Where should I go first? I want to see who won the big awards, but they are all the way on the other side of the room. It looks like only a short distance, but just try to walk by the hundreds of entries without them jumping out at you, grabbing your attention, forcing you to ogle, held under their spell. "So this is what International looks like, and look at the truly rich color of Arapahoe." Wait a minute, I was headed for the winners table. Will I ever get there?

Possibly not, since the many commercial display tables demand attention also - long tables overflowing with one picture-perfect violet after another. Finally, a chance to see the plants you have read or heard about, at their peak of perfection. It is a wonder that the judges can choose one winning table over the other.

Next, there are the collection entries, fabulous groups of standards, semi-minis and minis. And all those wonderful standards, perfect symmetry, massive blooms, prime condition and just enormous! It is truly inspiring to see what these plants are capable of.

For me, a devotee of the smaller plants, I have a particular fascination for the semi-minis - perfect representations of the admired standards, scaled down in size, but not quality. Equally beautiful little plants, bursting with vivid blooms, demanding their own place in the sun (so to speak).

There is also the design division; so creative and unique. Whether or not you are a design artist, you can't help but admire the many brilliant displays. The national show is also the place to see other plants such as the gesneriads; also very interesting displays.

By this time I have practically forgotten that I entered plants myself, and I haven't even looked for them. There they are! Not at the winner's table, but all sporting blue ribbons, which I can be happy with - for now.

Spotting first time convention-goers like my husband and me is probably easy. We're the ones flitting back and forth like the steel ball inside a pinball machine, ricochetting from one display table to another, not knowing where to go next. I'm calling constantly to my husband, "Come and look at this - no wait, check this out first." As a recent victim of violet fever, his excitement, combined with my own, made us quite a pair.

We did finally make it to the winner's table to admire the well deserved award-winning violets. Eventually, the showroom closed for the night. We left reluctantly, feeling that we did not sufficiently see the whole show. On the way back to our hotel room, we quickly checked the show schedule for the next available opportunity to view the showroom.

In addition to the show, the convention offers numerous tours, banquets and presentations held throughout the days and evenings. Since I was splitting my time in St. Louis between the show and visiting friends, I did not participate in any presentations or banquets, which I now regret. Though it was wonderful spending time with an old friend, I couldn't help wishing I could go to some of the events, which from glimpses I did catch, looked fun and informative.

When we passed Mr. and Mrs. Pittman on their way to one of the banquets, dressed to the nines, we wanted to be there too.

Some of the most fun at the convention was found at the commercial sales tables. Dozens of popular growers offered everything from plants and supplies to knick-knacks, even

jewelry and clothes. At these tables, you have the opportunity to buy the plants you've admired and grow them yourself.

You also have your pick of the new introductions right at the tips of your fingers - plants that non conventiongoers will have to order, wait for, and hope will be available. Think of the jump you have on growing time for next year! And now you will have seen, and possibly own, the plants you and everybody else will be reading about throughout the year.

Needless to say, my husband and I made several trips a day to our hotel room to drop off the new purchases, which included plants, supplies, t-shirts, a new watch and dozens of raffle tickets from the many different prizes offered.

It was great fun each night re-examining my loot from the day's haul. Of course, I exceeded my pre-determined limit of new plants. Of course, I went crazy at the sales and raffle tables. Of course, I can't wait to do it all again next year!

Probably one of the biggest rewards from attending a national convention, though, is the knowledge you bring home. This is naturally from a first-timers point of view. Even without attending any lectures what I learned was invaluable. This is what it is all about. This is where the real competition lies. It is a fun, healthy and vigorous competition, and nowhere is that more evident than at a national show.

There is no better way, possibly no other way, for that matter, to accurately assess the quality of your own plants without having a true measure of comparison. And why would you want to have your standard of comparison be anything less than the best? Nowhere else can you truly gauge the competition. Nowhere else can you see first hand the goals you are shooting for. Pictures and descriptions are no substitutions for the real McCoy. It is safe to say you really have no idea what your competition is without attending a national convention.

Obviously, there are growers and showers who do not attend national conventions but raise top show plants, and if you are lucky enough to be in their area, maybe you can observe their plants. But nothing can compare to the mass quantities of blue ribbon plants, all proudly gathered together, their beauty and magnificence exploding throughout the showroom.

So start making plans now for the convention in Atlanta. Whether or not you show your own plants, you will be glad you went. Attending a national convention provides an edge on what it takes to compete, while inspiring the drive and motivation to go home and make your own violets the best that they can be.

Feeding African Violets

by Adelle Johnson

Feeding your African violet plants a regular, well-balanced diet will produce beautiful leaves and blossoms. The constant feeding method is the most popular method used today, as it eliminates the common problem of feast-or-famine and provides a uniform supply of food to the violets. If growing under fluorescent lights, dissolve 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer in a gallon of warm water, and use this solution each time you water your violets. Growth is greatly accelerated under fluorescent lights. If growing under natural lighting conditions, use 1/8 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water.

There are several kinds of fertilizers on the market today, many made especially for African violets. Variegated plants should be fed differently than non-variegated plants, as too much nitrogen causes variegated leaves to become solid green. Examples of formulas good for variegated plants are 5-50-17, 12-36-14, 12-31-14, and 4-10-10. For seedlings, small plantlets, and rooted suckers, a fertilizer high in nitrogen promotes rapid growth. Some examples are 20-20-20, 14-12-14, and 5 -1-1.

African violets like to be fed at least once a month—even better, every two weeks. The exception to this rule is during the winter, when light intensity is less (if you are growing in natural light), as you will find the plants are not growing rapidly. If you are growing under fluorescent lighting, a constant-feeding method works best.

When selecting plant food, the nitrogen (first number in the formula) should be present in the smallest amount, and the phosphorus and potassium (second and third numbers in the formula) should dominate the plant food mixture. Phosphorus promotes flowering. Potassium serves many purposes, such as giving a plant disease resistance. Nitrogen causes the foliage to be that beautiful green color, but suppresses flower bud development in African violets.

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Left to Right:

Streptocarpus Diana

Exhibited by: **Kathryn Spissman**

Sinningia California Sunset

Exhibited by: **Dale Martens**

Best In Class 1995 National Show

Streptocarpus Susie

Exhibited by: **M. Catherine Swink**

Photo Credit: **Donna Moses**

Roots: Your Plant's Anchor

When we look at a beautiful African violet we focus on the color, shape, size of blossom and leaf, and size and symmetry of the plant, but this is only the "tip of the iceberg."

Did you know:

-a healthy violet in a two-inch pot has 10.7 square feet of surface area of the roots;

-if these roots were put end to end, they would reach 1.5 miles;

-the "fibrous" root system of the African violet plant is composed of thousands of tiny roots, developing from the base of the plant and each of the roots develops numerous side roots which in turn give rise to more roots.

-Roots serve four basic functions: 1) they anchor the plant in the potting mixture; 2) they absorb water and nutrients; 3) they transport water and nutrients upward from the soil to the rest of the plant; and 4) they store food for the plant to use.

When the potting mix is soaked with water, the roots begin to absorb the water into the plant. The roots will only absorb the water when the individual cells in the roots contain less water than is present in the potting mix. The water is moving by diffusion from an area of high concentration (wet potting mix) to an area of low concentration (individual cells in the roots). This absorption continues through the "indoor plumbing system" and water is carried upward to the rest of the plant.

When all the individual cells of an entire plant are filled to capacity with water, a downward pressure is exerted all the way to the smallest cells in the roots that first absorbed the water. This signal stops the absorption until the plant uses the water already in the system.

When the potting mixture is allowed to become too dry, this whole process is reversed. The water concentration becomes less in the soil than in the roots and water movement is then from the roots out into the potting mixture. If this condition goes on too long, the plants will wilt and if continued, the roots will die. (Source: M. Robey, (*African Violets: Gift from Nature.*)

When you repot, be sure your soil is moist. Mix a gallon bucket (or whatever quantity you will use in a few days) of soil with fertilizer water and let stand until the water is absorbed into the potting soil.

With moist soil, the feeder roots stay moist and healthy and your plant won't be "stressed out!" Those feeder roots can become dry in a matter of minutes when you are repotting.

If you miss a plant when watering your collection (or the wick doesn't get down into the water) don't drown the plant; water sparingly at first and allow the process of absorption to begin again. Just enough water from the top to wet the wick will start the process.

-The pot must have holes in the bottom so that the potting mix can get rid of extra water. This dynamic pressure between the plant and the potting soil will stabilize and the potting mix will stay just wet enough so the absorption process can continue without interruption.

-Too much water, too little water - either can cause serious problems for your plant. With wick watering, Texas potting, or mat watering, water is always available when the plant calls for it.

-Every time you allow your soil to dry out completely, your plant looses some of the tiny feeder roots and the plant is under stress.

-If the pot size is too large for the size of the plant, soil will store excessive moisture and the dynamic water absorption process is out of balance; this can also cause root rot.

-If the plant can't use the water that the soil will hold, air cannot get to the roots. Water is just one of the components - air and food are also a part of this complex process.

-Don't forget to fertilize regularly with 1/4 tsp. fertilizer to a gallon of water each time you water.

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"And the winners are..."

Al & Cathy Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Please mail your show results to us, not to Darryl Hoover. All of the show results that we receive by the AVM deadline appear in that issue.

Please take your time when you fill out our form! We are receiving quite a few mistakes. A mistake on a plant's name is usually caught and corrected by us, or Iris Keating, who proofs our column. But, we have no way of knowing that you listed the wrong exhibitor, wrong plant, or misspelled an exhibitor's name.

Your Show Chairman is responsible for filling out our form. If you read a mistake in our column, have your Show Chairman mail us a correction. We also need the name of the organization and which issue the incorrect information appeared in.

Correction: EARLY BIRD VIOLET CLUB, AL - Winners: 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Crawdaddy, L'Ambassadeur, City of Angels, **Jeri Whitlock**.

AVS OF CANADA - CANADIAN NATIONAL SHOW AND CONVENTION - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Skagit Splendor, Bourbon Mist, Rodeo Showgirl; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cheers, Precious Pink, Rob's Twinkle Toes; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Gratto**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiwi Dazzle, Moonbeams, Yasuyo Sport, **Betty Nagy**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Litta, Dean's Legacy, Dean's Lavender Blue; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Design Sweepstakes, **Erika Hargesheimer**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Margaret Jarratt**. Best Design, **Eleanor Elston**.

AVS OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, PA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Shirley's Delight, Photo Finish, Autumn Blues; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Flash, Hondo Honey, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show: Ness' Shirley's Delight, **Bill Lyons**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Fisherman's Paradise, Windy Day; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Red Flash; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sno Fun; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kay Lyons**. Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Betty Callahan**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Magic, **Craig Reed**, Best Design, **Carolyn Shaw**. Design Sweepstakes, **Joyce McMullen**.

AVS OF NORTH JERSEY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, The Alps, Chiffon Masquerade; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Bunny Blue, Ness' Mini Sota, Dean's Arctic Frost; Best in Show: Suncoast Paisley Print; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Best Semiminiature: Dean's Cupid; Best Trailer: Dazzle Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Emilia Rykowski**.

AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, PA - Winners: Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Barbara Jones**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dust Storm; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Betty Girvin**. Best Miniature: Pink Girl, **Idanna Peeler**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mildred Knorr**. Best Design, **Dawn Stewart**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane BeLancio.**

AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blackie Bryant, Wrangler's Spanish Cavalier, Silver Brocade; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hocus Crocus, Rob's Catch Me, Rob's Whimsical; Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly, **Ralph Robinson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pearl, Babe, Optimara Rose Quartz; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Donna Coleman**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust, **Peter Thompson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha Punter*; Best Design, **Barbara Ellison**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Head**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ethel Champion**.

AVS OF WESTERN NEW YORK, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Passion Purrfect, Raspberry Crisp, Christmas Candy-O; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Dorothy Schueler**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddlesticks, Rob's Catch Me, Rob's Green Jeans; Best in Show: Harbor Blue; Best Semiminiature: Rob'sCloud Nine; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ralph Robinson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, **Jennifer Bystrzak**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**.

ALBUQUERQUE AV CLUB, NM - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara New Mexico, Raspberry Lace, Utako; Best in Show: Optimara New Mexico; Best Miniature: Little Lovebell; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **JoEllen Bowden**. Best Semiminiature: Handmade; Best Trailer: Happy Trails; Best Design, **Louisa Sando**. Design Sweepstakes, **Margaret Schmierer**.

ATCHAFALAYA VS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Coral Kiss, Optimara Aruba, Le Bon Creole; Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl, **Fara Thibodaux**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Sweet Pea, Tipped Honey; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Dyson**. Best in Show: Natchurly Nawlins, **Faye Alfred**. Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Alice Ramirez**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia white ionantha*, **L. T. Ozio.**

BLUFF CITY AV CLUB, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jean-Pierre Croteau, Kathe Denise, Something Special, **Mike Ramsey**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Tomahawk, Fickle Flirt; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Handmade, Dean's Kitten, Lovely Linda; Best in Show: Vintage Wine, **Helen Stauffer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Symphonette, Super Skirt, Rob's Heat Wave; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **George McDonald**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Katherine Steele**. Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**.

BUSY BLOOMERS AVS, AK - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Big Charlie, Happy Hillbilly; Best in Show: Wrangler's Winter Hawk; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, **Glenda Dye**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Glenda Dye**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nancy Reagan, Evangeline, Magnolia, **Alice Brown**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Ruby; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Martha Walker**.

CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS & AVS OF ALBANY, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smokey Moon, Grandma's Zack, Photo Finish, **Margaret Califano**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Summer Song, Optimara Little Cherokee, Irish Flirt; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Gifford**. Best in Show: Bertha; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Hopi; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Esther Mason**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Jo Ploski**. Best Design, **Florence Zabinski**. Design Sweepstakes, **Helen Zabinski**.

CINCINNATI AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, You Old Smoothie, Natchurly Nawlins, **Jeannette Martin**. Best in Show: Muffy, **Sharon Holtzman**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal, **Alice Watson**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Spots; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Paula Duncan**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Wichman**.

CROSSTOWN AV CLUB, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snowflake Hill, Back In Time, Ness' Sizzlin' Pink, **Bonnie Henell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Fancy That, Vince's Choice; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Gal Vikki, Rob's Match Point, Rob's Dust Storm, **Ruth Olsen**. Best in Show: Nortex's Friendship Haven; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Firefly, **Meredith Roe**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Estelle Hrabek**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rosalee Trevallee**.

FIRST HALIFAX AVS, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, *Saintpaulia difficilis*, *Saintpaulia grotei*; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pixie Blue, Blustery Trail, Brazos Belle; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Design, **Ina Beaver**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Love Dots, **Heather Dionne**. Best Miniature: Bow Bells, **Heather Dionne**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Audrey Moir**.

GREEN THUMB AVS, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Branding Time, Optimara New Mexico, Hello Sunshine; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Candy Crystals, Cupid's Kiss, Magic Blue; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Best Trailer: Pink Star Lou; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ruby Pope**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Charlotte Jenkins**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Dawn Sparks**. Best Design, **Donna Jackson**.

HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Chocolate, Rob's Pewter Bells, Sugar Bear Blues; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Catherine Ross**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Amy Lackner, Pink Patti, Itza Peach; Best in Show: Ness' Shirley's Delight, **Joe Schulz**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Red Express, Rob's Pink Satin; Best Semiminiature: Trinket Terrific; Best Trailer: Fun Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Schuette**.

ILLINOIS AVS, INC., IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melodie Kimi, Ode To Beauty, Rhapsodie Dolly; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: ACAs Merry Mary, Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Evalyn Barborik**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Rob's Gray Ghost, Definitely Darryl, **Martha Compton**. Best in Show: Falling Snow; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Randy Hillman**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's April Storm, **Andrea Worrell**. Best Design, **Jackie Jones**.

LAKESHORE AVS OF TORONTO, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Moonflower, Desir, Harbor Blue, **Diane Maguire**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Paumanok, Red Lion, Pink Patti, **Gerry Hulleman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Violet Sky, Deano, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show: Melodie Kimi; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, **Beverley Williams**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Diamond Chips, Snuggles Little Dreamer, Rob's Silver Spook; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverley Britt**. Best Miniature: Dumas; Commercial Best in Show: Wee Be; Commercial Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Wee Be, Rob's Gray Ghost, **Sandra Lex**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Limone', **Tony Hulleman**. Best Design, **Vivian Beeching**. Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**. Commercial Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Bud's Melanie, Harbor Blue, **ACA's Violet-Tree**.

LATE BLOOMERS AV CLUB, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smokey Moon, Val's Sweet Dream, Scandal; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Copper Cat; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shirley Streit**. Best in Show: Ness' Blue Velvet; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Azurite; Design Sweepstakes, **Mable Lewis**. Best Design, **Carole Zimmerman**.

MILWAUKEE AVS, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Prancing Pony, Optimara Little Apache, Ness' Tutti Frutti, **Marguerite Isbrandt**. Best in Show: Crystal Orchid; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Joan Wilson**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal, **Dorothy Fossum**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Tutti Frutti, **Irene Merrell**. Best Trailer: Teen Trail, **Mickey Eberle**.

NAUGATONIC AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiwi Dazzle, Rhapsodie Farrah, Optimara Yellowstone, **Don Goodwin**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Happy Teen, Rob's Cloud Nine, Ness' Tutti Frutti, **Julie Prokop**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Fancy Trail; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sno Fun; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**.

NORTH STAR VIOLET COUNCIL, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's North Star, Rebel's Fairy Stars, Optimara Rocky Mountain; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeyman, Rob's Boondoggle, Ness' Dynomite; Best in Show: Rebel's Splatter Kake; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boondoggle; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Ruth Bann**. Best Trailer: Lil Run Around; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sharon Johnson**. Best Design, **Jinean Schofield**.

PARMATOWN AV CLUB, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Jazzy Jewel, Optimara New Mexico, **Tracey Lorence**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Feathers, Back In Time, Optimara Barbados; Best in Show: Optimara Barbados; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Sky, **Martha Bell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Wee Be, Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Design, **Marian Tisdale**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Neumann**.

PAUMANOK AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, The Alps, Shades Of Autumn; Best in Show: Lela Marie, **Jane Weber**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sweet Pea, Optimara Little Aztec, Ness' Red Flash; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sweet Pea, **Bud Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Kiwi Dazzle, Grape Slush; Best Trailer: Bellwood Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marcy Koester**. Best Miniature: Lonesome George, **Martha Spyridon**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Gloria Rutmayer**. Best Design, **Karyn Cichocki**. Design Sweepstakes, **Marilyn Heinrich**.

SAN JOAQUIN AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Angel, Little Katherine, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gladys Cartwright**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Everdina, Optimara Little Rhodonite, Quiet Dreams, **Doris Weaver**. Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Evelyn Stein**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Olive Martin**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Regina'; Best Design, **Vera Parker**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Jo McCoy**.

SPRINGFIELD AV CLUB, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Darling Blue Trail, Happy Trails, Ramblin' Silver; Best Trailer: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Carr**. Best in Show: Mark; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dust Storm, **Linda Owens**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Diamond, **Laraine Hune**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Bartley**.

THE AVS OF DENVER CHAPTER 1, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Plum Velvet, Harbor Blue, Joelle; Best in Show: Joelle, **Fran Ratte'**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Pearl, Cutie; Best Trailer: Jannie; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Nelly Levine**.

THE DELAWARE AVS, DE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Desir, Jean; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Pat Champagne, Precious Pink; Best in Show: Party Print; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha Punter #7*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Bessie Pyle**. Best Semiminiature: Little Pro, **Barbara LaFashia**. Best Trailer: Sante Fe Trail, **Sally Ketchum**. Best Design, **Andrea Pirone**.

THE FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Teen Surprise, Dean's Cupid; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Semiminiature: Teen Surprise; Best Trailer: Snowy Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eunice Curry**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Little Katherine, Skagit Small Wonder, **Katherine Perry**. Best in Show: Blue Boy, **Michael Kaprelian**.

THE UNPREDICTABLE'S AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathe Denise, Ness' Bangle Blue, Granger's Desert Dawn; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Twinkle Pink, Rob's Silver Spook, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Silver Spook; Best Trailer: Perk Up, **Wilma Wolverton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Ruby, Rob's Doohickey, Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Linda Golubski**. Best in Show: Picasso; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Sue Hill**. Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Wilson**.

UNION COUNTY CHAPTER AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Adeline Krogman, Optimara Colorado, Optimara Manitoba II, **Marion Mossberg**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fantasy Delight, Garnet Elf, Granger's Purple Cascade; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **Marjorie Crosby**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Hot Chocolate, Snuggles; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Muriel Lawrence**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Jill Fischer**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Jean Peters**. Best Design, **Robert Hand**. Design Sweepstakes, **Faith Perrin**.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wisteria, Anastasia, Fisherman's Paradise; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Satin, Ness' Sno Fun, Lavender Kisses; Best in Show: Evangeline; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sapphire Halo, Deep Dark Secret, Wrangler's Bryan's Song, **Peggy Waller**.

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiwi Dazzle, Arapahoe, Raspberry Rose; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Barbara Nussear**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Petite Jewel, Everdina, Optimara Little Azurite; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Design Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best Semiminiature: Darryl's Babe, **Sandy Purins**. Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marcia Shaver**. Best Design, **Florence Naylor**.

VIOLETS AND FRIENDS AV CLUB, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chiffon Print, Ghost Dance, Tiger; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Rob's Doodlebug, Rob's Sunspot; Best in Show: Grandma's Zack; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Terena Stotler**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Candy Crystals, Teen Surprise, Blue Smoke; Best Miniature: Rob's Pal Paul; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Almost Sinful; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Martha Bradney**. Best Trailer: Magic Trail, **Shirley Jones**.

WINDSOR AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Irish Maiden, Favorite Child, Tomahawk; Best Trailer: Champagne Pink, **Vivian Hiltz**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rapid Transit, Chorale, Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Best Semiminiature: Teen Sweetheart; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy Hayes**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, **Doreen Lay**.

Coming Events

January 20-21 - FLORIDA
First Lakeland AVS 1996 AV Show/Exhibit, Southwest Middle School Cafeteria, 2815 S. Eden Parkway, Lakeland, FL
January 20 - noon to 6pm,
January 21 - noon to 5:30pm
Info: Mary Jane DiLorenzo (941) 647-1517

February 2, 3, 4 - MISSOURI
6th Annual Jr. League of St. Louis Flower Show
Cervantes Convention Center, downtown St. Louis
Info: (314) 569-3117

February 3 - CALIFORNIA
Ventura Co. AVS Plant Sale
Buenaventura Mall at Mills Rd. and Main St., Ventura, CA
10am - 6pm

February 9 & 10 - LOUISIANA
Top Choice AVC Plant Sale, Pierre Bossier Mall, Bossier City, LA
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929-7749

February 9, 10 & 11 - FLORIDA
Upper Pinellas AVS Show/Sale
Clearwater Mall, Gulf to Bay Blvd. (SR 60) & US 19, Clearwater FL
Feb. 9 - Sale Only - 10am - 9pm,
Feb. 10, Show Opens - 1pm,
Feb. 11 - 12pm - 5pm
Info: Phyllis King (813) 398-7450

February 17 & 18 - ARIZONA
Tucson AVS Show/Sale
Park Mall, Tucson Mall Hours
Info: Anita Harold (520) 743-9520

February 22, 23, 24 & 25 - RHODE ISLAND
1996 Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show
Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin St., Rhode Island
Feb. 22, 23, 24 - 10am - 9pm
Feb. 25 - 10am - 7pm
Info: (914) 421-3261

February 23 - 25 - FLORIDA
TAMPA AVS 21st Annual Judged Show/Sale
Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 East Hillsborough Ave., Tampa
Feb. 23 - noon - 9pm,
Feb. 24 - 10am - 9pm,
Feb. 25 - noon - 5pm
Info: JoAnn Feith (813) 239-3342

February 24 & 25 - OKLAHOMA
AVS of Greater Tulsa 20th Annual Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 South Peoria
Info: (918) 627-7395

March 1, 2, & 3 - FLORIDA
Gulf AVC Show/Sale
Ft. Myers - Lec Co. Garden Center Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542-9193

March 2 - NEW YORK
New York Botanical Gardens offers a course in "Flowering Plants For Indoors" at the New York Institute of Tech.
March 2 - 10am - 2:30pm
Info: (718) 817-8747

March 8 -17 - NEW YORK
1996 New York Flower Show
NY Coliseum at Broadway & 59th St.
Info: (914) 421-3299

March 8 - 9 - LOUISIANA
Top Choice AVC Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA
March 8 - 2pm - 7pm, March 9 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929-7749

March 9 & 10 - CALIFORNIA
South Coast AVS Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verde Peninsula, CA
March 9 - 11 - 5pm,
March 10 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373-5697

March 9 & 10 - LOUISIANA
Atchafalaya AVS 21st AV Show/Sale
Morgan City Municipal Auditorium on Myrtle St.
March 9 - 2pm - 5pm,
March 10 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Donnie Clement (504)384-6852

March 15 & 16 - CALIFORNIA
Pomona Valley AVS Annual Show/Sale
Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave., La Verne, CA
March 15 - 1pm - 6pm,
March 16 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Adelaide Kory (909) 945-2600
Marna Music (909) 593-7618

March 16 & 17 - CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County AVS Show/Sale
Good Nite Inn, 485 Veterans Blvd., Exit 101 at Whipple Ave. to Veterans Blvd.
March 16 - 2pm - 5pm,
March 17 - 9am - 3pm
Info: (415) 593-2998

March 16 &17 - TEXAS
Moonlight AVS annual Judged Show/Sale
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, University Dr., Fort Worth, TX
Both Days: 1pm - 4pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589-1149

March 16 & 17 - CALIFORNIA
San Joaquin AVS Annual Show/Sale
Sherwood Mall, 5308 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA
March 16 - 10am - 6:30pm,
March 17 - 11am - 5pm
Info: (209) 745-9602

March 16 & 17 - KANSAS
Wichita AV Study Club Annual Show/Sale
Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, 701 Amidon, Wichita, KS
March 16 - noon - 4pm
March 17 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Beth Reisman (316) 733-4777

March 20 - 23 - TENNESSEE
Dixie AVS 40th Annual Convention, Show/Sale
Hosted by the Nashville AVC
Ramada Inn South, I-65 South at Harding Place, Exit 78, Nashville, TN
Show Hours: Friday - 3pm - 5pm
Sat. - 10am - 4pm
Info: Porter Temple (615) 646-1922, Peggy Adamson (615) 228-7762

March 23 - TEXAS
Moonlight AVS Annual Non-Judged AV Exhibit and Sale
Ft. Worth Botanical Garden Center, University Dr., Fort Worth, TX
Club members will be on hand to provide demonstrations of violet care.
Saturday - 9am - 12pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589-1149

March 23 - CONNECTICUT
Windsor AVS Judged Show
Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad St.
Windsor, CT
Hours: 10am - 3pm
Info: Vivian Hiltz (860) 666-3573

March 29, 30 & 31 - TEXAS
First Nighter AVS Spring Show
Big Town Mall, US Hwy. 80 at Big Town Blvd., Mesquite, TX
Info: Mildred Greene (214) 942-1226

March 29, 30 & 31 - MINNESOTA
Minnesota AVS Show/Sale
Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave., just south of I 694, Maplewood, MN
March 29 - 10am - 9 pm,
March 30 - 10am - 6pm,
March 31 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Marie Nater (612) 489-4326

May 9, 10 & 11 - CANADA
AVS of Canada 29th Annual Convention
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Info: Bob McCade, 769 Holt Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 2Y5 Canada (613) 737-3793

1996 Convention Awards

Society Awards - Amateur Division

Best African Violet	Silver and Tri-Color Rosette
2nd Best African Violet	Award of Merit Rosette and $15
3rd Best African Violet	Honorable Mention Rosette and $10
Best AVSA Collection of Standards	Gold Rosette and $50
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Standards	Purple Rosette
Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	Gold Rosette and $50
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	Purple Rosette
Best Miniature	Rosette
Best Semiminiature	Rosette
Best Standard	Rosette
Best Trailer	Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	Rosette
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	Medallion and Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Horticulture	Rosette

Society Awards - Design Division Amateur and Commercial

Best Design	Silver and Tri-Color Rosette
2nd Best Design	Rosette
Sweepstakes in Design	Medallion and Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Design	Rosette

Society Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Best African Violet	Silver, Blue Rosette and $50
Best AVSA Collection of Standards	Gold, Rosette and $50
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Standards	Purple Rosette
Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	Gold Rosette and $50
2nd Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	Purple Rosette
Best New Cultivar	$50

Society Awards - Commercials Display Tables

Best Display Table	Silver, Blue Rosette, and $100
2nd Best Display Table	Silver, Red Rosette and $75
3rd Best Display Table	Silver, White Rosette and $50
4th Best Display Table	Honorable Mention Rosette and $25
Best African Violet	Rosette and $50
Best New Cultivar	Blue Rosette and $50
2nd Best New Cultivar	Red Rosette
3rd Best New Cultivar	White Rosette
Best New Cultivar from display tables or specimen plants	Plaque

Society Awards - Affiliate Yearbooks

Best Yearbook	Blue Rosette and $50
2nd Best Yearbook	Red Rosette and $35
3rd Best Yearbook	White Rosette and $25
4th Best Yearbook	Lavender Rosette and $10

Society Awards - Affiliate Newsletter (16 pages or less)

Best Newsletter	Blue Rosette and $50
2nd Best Newsletter	Red Rosette and $25

Society Awards - Affiliate Magazines (more than sixteen pages)

Best Magazine	Blue Rosette and $50
2nd Best Magazine	Red Rosette and $25

Special Awards - Amateur Division

Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis	$25	Cincinnatti AVS
Best Holtkamp Collection	$300 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	$200 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp	$100 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best In Show	Planter	Big Sky Violets
3rd Best In Show	$25	Missouri Valley AV Council
Best Semiminiature	$15	Central Florida AVS
Best Trailer	$25	Missouri Valley AV Council
Best Fantasy Blossom	$25 & Rosette	Baltimore AVC
Best Species	$50	Cape Cod Violetry
Best Species	Rosette	AVS of Western New York
Best New Cultivar	$15	John P. Nabers
Best Other Gesneriad	$25	Missouri Valley AV Council
Best Standard Green Foliage - Pink Blossom	$20	Nancy Amelung
Best Standard Variegated Foliage - Pink Blossom	$15	Marion Hamtil
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	$50	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Horticulture	$25	Missouri Valley AV Council

Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Division

Everdina	$10	Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Granger's Firehouse	$25	Granger Gardens
Granger Pink Amiss	$25	Granger Gardens
Harbor Blue	$10	Paumanok AVS
Irish Flirt	$25 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouse
Mickey Mouse	$10	Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Marching Band	$10	Alice Grundy
Ness Angel Babe	$25	Midland Violets
Ness Crinkle Blue	$25	Midland Violets
Peach Puff	$50	Georgia State AVS
Rob's Lilli Pilli	$25 & Rosette	Ralph Robinson
Sassy Shirley	$10	Magic Knight AVS
Vintage Wine	$25 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouse

Other Awards - Amateur Division

$100 Donated by
Lone Star AV Council

$50 Donated by
Ohio State AVS — Ruth Wheeler

$30 Donated by
AVS of Minnesota

$25 Donated by

Alpha AVS	Mid America AVS	AV Study Club of Houston
NASA AVS	Cantral Texas Judges Council	North California Council AVS
Columbus AVS	Pamona Valley AVS	The First AV Society of Dallas
Pikes Peak AVS	First AVS of Spartanburg, SC	Quad City AVS
First Nighter AVS	Spring Branch AVC	Jackie Jones
Tristate AV Council	Lakeshore AVS of Toronto	Unpredictable AVS
Pat Richards	Iris Keating	Mary Ann Switzer
	Bill & Paula Foster	

$20 Donated by

Jim & Linda Golubski	Tapping's Soil	Joan Halford
	Union County Chapter, AVSA	

$15 Donated by
Meredith Hall — Gladys Jones

$10 Donated by

Amethyst AVC	Heart of Jacksonville AVS	AVC of Morris County
Nite Bloomers AVS	AVS of Lower Bucks County, PA	The Pied Pipers Club
AVS of San Francisco	Sue Ramser	Helen Blanton
Leonard & Elaine Re	Delaware AVS	Jo Schindler
First AVS of Wichita Falls	Sho Me AVC	First Austin AVS
Janice Taylor		

Special Awards - Design Division

Specified Awards - Design Division

2nd Best In Design	$25	Albuquerque AVC
3rd Best In Design	$15 & Rosette	Joyce Stenger
Sweepstakes In Design	$50	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Sweepstakes Runner-Up In Design	$25	First AVS of Spartanburg, SC
Best Container Garden	$20	Jane Rexilius
Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement	$10	AVS of Lower Bucks County, PA
Best Interpretive Flower Arrangement	$10	Amethyst, AVC

Special Awards - Commercial Division

Specified Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Best Holtkamp Collection	$300	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	$200	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	$100	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best African Violet	$25	Aca's Violet-Tree
2nd Best African Violet	$10	Pat Richards
Best Irish Flirt	$25 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Best Other Gesneriad	$10	Violets by Appointment

Specified Awards - Commercial Display Tables

Best Horticultural Perfection	Silver Tray	New York State AVS

Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

A special award of $100, donated by Tinari Greenhouses, will be presented at the 1996, Atlanta Convention to the individual, club, or affiliate obtaining 25 or more new AVSA members during 1995.

To be eligible for the award, send a complete list of names and addresses of the new members to Linda L. Golubski, AVSA Awards Chairman, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, by January 31, 1996.

Awards Still Needed

Don't be left behind, thinking, "I should have donated an award for the 50th anniversary show in Atlanta, GA." Send your award now. All donated awards are greatly appreciated by the exhibitors. It is an incentive to exhibit. I know we all like to "show off" our violets, but some of us need a little encouragement. Thanks in advance for your support.
Please send your awards to:

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski
1416 A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051

DIXIE AVS TO HOLD 40TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Nashville AVC will host the 40th Annual DIXIE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY'S convention, show and plant sale. "Dixie Goes Country" is the theme, and the event will take place at the Ramada Inn South, I-65 South at Harding Place, Exit 78, Nashville, TN., on the weekend of March 20 - 23, 1996.

The show will be open to the public Friday from 3pm to 5pm, Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free, and the convention area is readily accessible for the handicapped. For more information call Porter Temple, Convention Chairman, (615) 646-1922 or Peggy Adamson, Show Chairman, (615) 228-7762.

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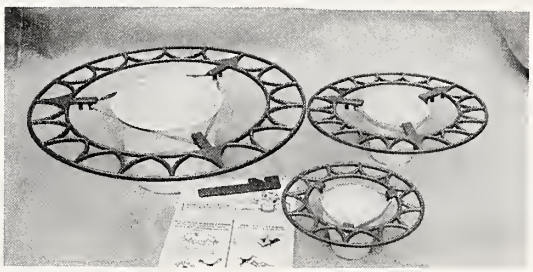

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Inch Size	Color	Type	Number of Pots 10	20	50	100	500
2	Wh/Gr	RS	$ .90	$1.75	$ 4.00	$ 6.75	$ 29.00
2-1/8	WhTerraCotta	RT	.90	1.75	4.00	6.75	29.00
2-1/4	Wh	RS or SQ	1.30	2.20	4.65	8.50	34.00
2-1/2	Wh/Gr	RS or SQ	1.50	2.50	5.50	9.50	39.00
3	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.80	3.30	7.50	13.50	57.50
3-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT or SQ	2.10	3.75	8.50	15.50	67.50
4	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.50	4.50	10.00	18.00	78.00
4-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.70	5.00	11.00	20.00	88.00
5	Wh/Gr	RT or RS	3.25	5.80	13.50	25.00	110.00
6	Wh/Gr	RT or RS	4.00	6.50	16.00	31.50	135.00
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10			11.00	20.00	48.00	92.00	220.00

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RS: ht. = width / RT: ht. = 3/4 width / SQ & RS: same volume

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Volume Size	20	50	100	500
8 oz. (4"w. x 1-3/4"h.)	$ 10.00	$21.00	$40.00	$160.00
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6" fits up to 3" pot	$3.00	$ 10.00	$20.00
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12" fits up to 5" pot	4.50	13.00	26.00
15" fits up to 8" pot	7.00	19.00	40.00
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KNOX-OUT (PT1500A) aerosol spray	16 oz.	$7.95
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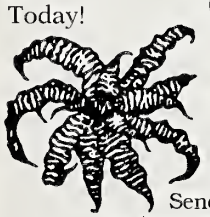

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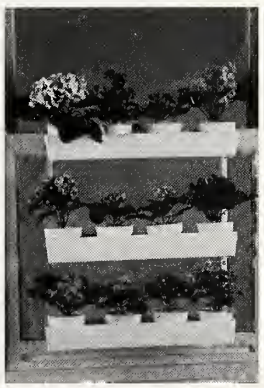

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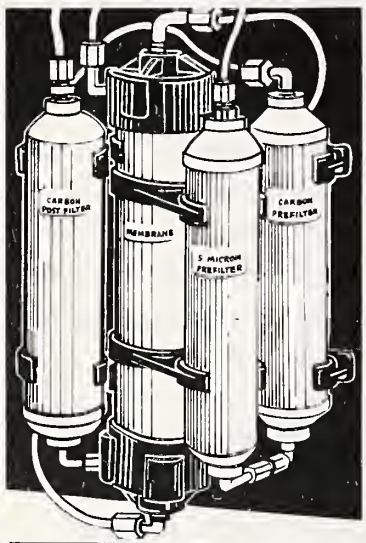

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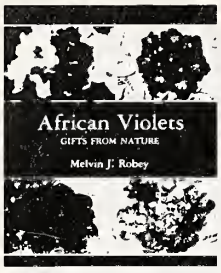

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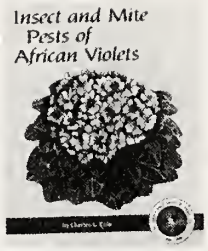

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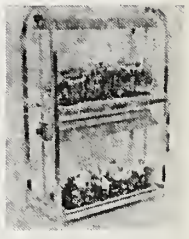

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QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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March • April | Volume 49 | Number 2

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African Violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

Dear AVSA Members and Friends,

Although most of our country is experiencing severe winter weather, we can't help but wish for spring and the opportunity to work with our outdoor plants and gardens. We are grateful for our stands of African violets and others gesneriads and always enjoy working with them, especially at this time of the year when so many affiliates have scheduled shows for everyone's enjoyment. Any spare time is easily absorbed by viewing your collection and deciding which ones will go to your show.

You want to choose the most promising plants on your shelves for the special trip to the show. Carefully observe all potential show plants individually for the presence of disease, undesirable critters, necks, suckers, and especially the correct and complete name that belongs to the plant. The grooming should also include lightly brushing your plant leaves and carefully washing the leaves to give them that fresh, healthy appearance. On occasion your potential show plant may have the beginning of a neck. With care, you can add enough soil around the neck to cover it and eliminate the deduction of any points. Remove all faded blossoms and those that may have been injured in transporting the plant to the show. This extra "tender, loving care" will pay off when your plant is being considered for an award.

In just a few months our beloved society will be celebrating its fiftieth birthday! What a special occasion that will be. The theme of the Convention show is "Fifty Golden Years With Violets", and the design titles reflect the beauty of the host state and the many sights of interest in it. On behalf of the officers, directors, and members of AVSA I personally thank the Georgia State African Violet Council for sponsoring the 1996 Convention. If you have never been to a convention, then I strongly recommend that you allow the 1996 AVSA Convention to be the first one you attend. You will be happy you did. Look through the violet colored pages of the January/February issue of the AVSA Magazine, select the activities you wish to attend, and mail your registration form with your check to cover to the AVSA Office, 2375 North, Beaumont, Texas 77702 so that it will be received before April 15, 1996. Let's all make this convention a pleasant one which will be remembered for years to come. A convenient registration form can be found on the rear of the mailing cover of the January/February issue of the AVSA magazine.

Good luck to all of you for successful growing of your African violets.

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702 • (409) 839-4725

Considering the three page length of our Coming Events section, many of you are preparing for your club's spring show. Please remember that you may order promotional back issues of the AVM to help acquaint the public with African violets and the AVSA. The magazines are complimentary, and your club would be responsible for the shipping costs.

We are all concerned with the membership growth in our society, particularly at this time when many horticultural groups are experiencing membership problems. One way to help publicize AVSA and our favorite houseplant is through the 'lifestyles', or gardening section of your local newspaper.

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune, of Sarasota, FL recently published an article on African violets. Two of our members, **Christel Collier** and **Rita Hilton** provided information and growth tips. I had been contacted by the paper earlier and sent along a few slides of outstanding plants. The paper also printed information on the AVSA, membership rates and how to join.

If you know of a local paper who would be interested in an article on African violets and the AVSA, let me know, or have them contact me directly. I have slides and/or text available upon request.

Please see **Dr. Jon Lovett's** exciting article about African violets in the wild, on pages 28 and 29. The three accompanying photos are of Saintpaulia species plants in their natural habitat.

In the Jan/Feb issue, I had the pleasure of publishing a picture of 'Orchard's Purple Haze', a hybrid by **Rahim Wilson**. I want to encourage all of you who hybridize to send along quality slides of your plants. And I stress **QUALITY SLIDES**. I have received slides from some hybridizers of absolutely beautiful plants, but the poor quality of the slides prevented their use. Slides must be clear and in sharp focus, not too dark, or light enough to be washed out.

In this issue, look for **Don Geiss'** story, The Case of the Missing African Violet, on page 24. Don has been a regular contributor to the AVM and I appreciate the work that goes into producing articles on such a wide variety of topics.

Another regular contributor is **Kyle Coleman** of Ft. Worth, TX. I very much appreciate the efforts of these gentlemen. Kyle's article on Effective Club Programs is on page 38.

Joe Schulz, of Columbia, MO, has an interesting article on page 50. Joe has been around AVSA since the early 1950's, maybe even sooner. As I've been going through 50 years of back issues, his name kept popping up. I finally asked if he was the same Joe Schulz, and he reluctantly admitted that he was. I hope Joe inspires our other long-time members to contribute to the AVM. Your experience and expertise are a valuable resource to all members of AVSA.

1 - 800 - 770 - AVSA

For Your Information. . . .

BYLAW AMENDMENT

The following amendment to the Bylaws has been approved by the Board of Directors to be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

Article III, Section 2d Life Member: An individual who shall, upon payment of life membership dues, be exempt from annual dues.

This ammendment is to insert the words "An Individual" after Life Member:.

Submitted by AVSA Bylaws Committee

PURPLE PAGES CORRECTIONS

Page A12
DESIGN DIVISION
RESERVATIONS

Exhibitors wishing to **cancel reservations** must write or call Mrs. Moffatt at (706) 855-1691

AVSA LIBRARY OFFERS NEW VIDEO

The AVSA Library has received a video through the generosity of Holtkamp Greenhouses. This ten-minute tape is a mini tour of the Nashville facilities, and while it does not stress "varieties", we found the video thoroughly interesting -- it left us wanting MORE!

To order "Optimara - Tennessee Crossroads" send requests to *AVSA Office, 2375 North St., Beaumont, Texas 77702*. The cost is $10.00

WANTED!
Slides for Social Hour

This year we will be taking a walk down memory lane, for our 50th Anniversary. Please send your slides of past conventions as well as last year's convention in St. Louis. Include some brief information about each slide (people's name, year, location) so we will know who's in it and what they are doing. Slides of shows, plants, people in meetings, on tours, at presentations, buying plants, eating, sleeping, what ever!!

Slides not selected to be shown will be returned. Slides of the '95 St. Louis Convention will be kept as part of the AVSA Library. Slides of past conventions will be returned on request.

Please send slides in by April 20, 1996 to:

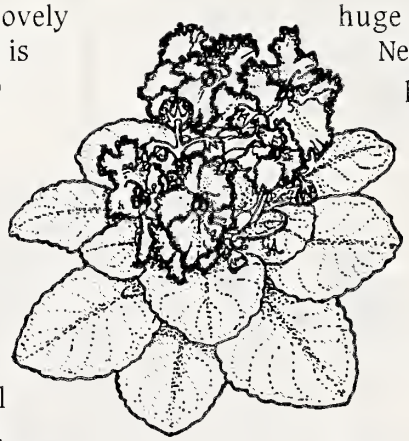
Nancy G. Hayes
9 Cobblestone Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002

A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Saintpaulia 'Centennial Salute'

Tinari Greenhouses has featured this lovely plant for the discovery centennial, so, it is appropriate that I feature this illustration to salute Anne and Frank Tinari for their many years of devotion. This beautiful plant has frilly, violet-edged flowers of snowy white. Each pansy shaped flower is held high and proud, some shades of purple mottling may appear on the upper petals. My plant was given as a special favor in Philadelphia last year when Judith Smith invited me to speak. The membership is full of wonderful people like Laura Shannon and Margaret Cass.



As AVSA convenes in Atlanta, GA, to celebrate the Golden Anniversary, may we wish the Tinaris great contentment and joy for all those years of devotion. We salute everyone who met fifty years ago in Atlanta to start The African Violet Society of America, Inc. They have provided countless photos and records of the Saintpaulia species and hybrids.

MAAVS

The Pittsburgh Convention of the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society is history. What fun! Over 80 members gathered to enjoy the warmth of friendship and plants on frosty days. The show was lovely; greatly enhanced by Edward Bradford's Best and Third Best plants, Sidney Sorano's Second best and Sweepstakes entries, Alice Grundy's trailers, Fay Wagman's Pentadenia and Barbara Peterson's beautiful species. My terrarium was placed on the honor table as best design.

Joe Suzow did one of the best educational AVSA tables ever. The gesneriads were beautiful, especially Sidney's huge hanging baskets of Columnea and Nematanthus. She and David Turley did fantastic presentations. David and Coleen own Coda Gardens and specialize in gesneriads. They sold for only one day so it really was a feeding frenzy. The diversity of this plant family is a never-ending delight. Susan Hoffman, MAVVS President, and The Tidewater AV Society will host the 1996 convention in Virginia Beach, VA. More FUN.

DENVER DELIGHTS

Shirley Mitchell invited me to speak to the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council in Denver. I thoroughly enjoyed "practice" judging with them. Those present were divided into teams and asked to judge all plants. Then, each judge chose a plant to judge orally. Great to compare notes. This congenial and generous group gave me cuttings to replace my losses. I met Dr. Dunham and Norah Otto. They are "into" computerization of gesneriads big time. This will introduce my next topic.

ON LINE

As we enter the next century, we absolutely must prepare to welcome the computer generation. I was hoping to be computer friendly in my rocking chair of the future, however, everyone who has crossed the threshold enjoys the electronic communication more than eye-to-eye conversation. Dr. Dunham is doing a collection of pages, in color, of Columneas. Ken Barbi communicates with people around the world who have expressed interest in Electronic Mail and World-Wide Web forum for AVSA. He could help

initiate the proposal. We must keep pace or be left behind. We must publish a great magazine and enter the electronic age in order to attract and keep membership.

THE ARC

Our editor, Ruth Rumsey, has sent me a marvelous letter regarding our giving complimentary ad space to the Tanzania Wildlife Fund for the Arc Project. This project is to restore denuded rainforests in East and West Usambara Mountains, which contain many Saintpaulia species. Local villagers clear the forest for farmland and cut trees for timber. I know this is a fact, from my correspondence with Peter Hopley of Arusha. The Tanzania Wildlife Fund is a member of AVSA and Carter Coleman, Trustee, has asked for an ad to support funding. What a great idea.

MAGIC

Jamie Christenson, of Bay Valley Violets, sold plants that had large amounts of blooms of heavy substance. She gives credit to a product called Eleanor's V-F-11, a concentrated, low-formula fertilizer. I am going to try it and will let you know the results. Would appreciate comments about any new product or plant. Rob Robinson, of Mini-o-lets, is hybridizing streptocarpus. His violet hybrids are doing so well on the show tables, I can't wait to see what his streps do.

Shows and Show Schedules

What is it all about?

by Sharon E. Johnson
Lino Lakes, MN

When I was a new member, one of the first things that was handed to me was a show schedule. I didn't know what it was all about, and was too embarrassed to ask anyone. I will attempt to clarify some areas for you if you have been in the same situation.

The purpose of having a show is to challenge and encourage club members to grow better plants and to stimulate the general public to cultivate the hobby. In the spring our affiliate has what is called an AVSA Standard Show and it is judged by AVSA Judges. In the fall we have a Standard Show, **not** an **AVSA** Standard Show, and it is also judged by AVSA Judges. The difference between the two shows is that at an AVSA Standard Show, judges not only judge the plants, but they also judge the overall appearance of a show and the educational and AVSA information available. So by now you're wondering why do we go through all this just to show off our beautiful plants? It makes us **maintain** and **improve** the quality of our shows.

The show schedule is divided into 3 parts. The 1st part is called amateur horticulture. That's where all the plants go. The 2nd part is design. A show schedule always has a theme which dictates the classes. Within each design class there can be different types. The 3rd part of a schedule is education, which includes education about the AVSA, growing plants, and of course a place for people to sign up to become a member. The last show schedule page or pages lists the rules for entering a show including some rules required by the AVSA. The AVSA has set up some basic rules for staging a show. With our fall Standard Show we change the collection classes to less limitations, which we hope will encourage new members to enter the class.

The collection classes were always a mystery to me. I used to read them over and over again but they were hard to understand. Basically it means that you must have 3 registered plants entered as a unit. These are plants that are registered with the AVSA by the hybridizer and listed in the Master Variety List. They also must be the same type; such as 3 standards, 3 minis, 3 trailers, etc. They are NOT judged any more scrupulously than any other plant in the show. The AVSA has a special rosette for first and second place for collection classes.

The next time you go to the show, see how each section is a grouping of colors, sizes, or types. Within the design section the container garden class has violets in different **types** of containers. The unusual container class is not in the design section because it's not classified as a "design". The interpretive flower arrangement class uses only the AV blossoms or leaves, and the interpretive plant class uses the **whole African violet plant**. When you are browsing through the show, stop and ask any of our "experienced" members if you have questions. Please don't do like I did, by trying to figure it out on your own.

If you want to enter plants, call the classification/entries committee. They will tell you what information they need, and what you should do. Entering the first time is different, but keep in mind that EVERYONE that has plants in the show has been there, so we understand and we would like to help you become a winner.

Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

WATER: The Essential Growing Factor

We can't live without it and neither can our African violets. It seems so elemental and abundant. But bad water and poor watering techniques can probably be blamed for most violet mortalities.

In Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics he refers to a "golden mean" in which man finds a balance between two extremes. When it comes to growing violets, the "golden mean" is finding the point at which plants are damp enough without being too wet. It is also finding water that is pure enough without being too pure. It is finding a system that provides adequate humidity without encouraging disease. The "golden mean" also must be affordable and easy, effective and attractive. Aristotle said it was difficult and rare for a man to find that point of moderation, and it is a constant challenge for violet growers as well.

Wet Enough But Not Too Damp

We killed our first violet. We think it probably suffered from being first too wet and then too dry. It may have had the misfortune to be left standing in water a couple of times. That little Rhapsodie Gigi never really had a chance.

A common error of casual African violet growers is to water as we did -- whenever they think about it or when it looks dry with sagging limp leaves. This is often followed with a thorough drenching that not only saturates the soil but leaves water standing in the saucer for several days. Roots are first allowed to dry and shrivel and then are overwhelmed with more water than can be absorbed, to the point that all air is forced out of the soil. Violets may tolerate this as a rare occasion, but if it is routine, the root system will be damaged and unable to recover. It is also the perfect environment for an invasion of pythium or phytopthora fungus which cause root rot.

Top-watering (pouring water over the top of the soil) or bottom-watering (filling the saucer and allowing the pot to soak up the water) are both common systems for African violets. Both are effective if water is offered on a regular schedule before the soil is bone dry and the plant is wilting. It is imperative that you check the saucer a half an hour or so after watering to be sure that the plant is not left standing in water.

Most African violet hobbyists use systems that supply a more even supply of water, generally referred to as "constant water systems". These vary greatly in design, but all provide water on a regular basis without allowing too much. Most growers use fertilizer in their water so that the system is also a constant fertilizer method.

Wick-watering is one of the least expensive methods that is highly effective. A wick, made of nylon, rayon, or other man-made materials, is inserted into the pot so that one end dangles into a source of water while the other end is in the soil. It works on the principal of capillary action. Water molecules attract one another and can pull each other along. When the wick is saturated, a chain of water molecules is formed. As the roots absorb water, the molecules are pulled along the chain. As long as there is a continuing source of new molecules, the chain will keep moving water up the wick and into the root system.

There are several keys to successful wicking. First, the potting mix must be very light and porous to avoid oversaturation. This is true with almost all of the constant water methods! If in doubt, experiment before committing your entire collection to a new watering system.

Second, the water source must be below the pot so that the root system is entirely above the water line, with air space in between. In large growing areas, this water source might be open trays of water that are topped with open wire screening or plastic grating. The plants sit on the wire or grating with the wicks hanging down in the water. A simple version of this can be done with a plastic food tub which has

a hole cut into the lid. The plant sits on the lid with its wick dropped through the hole into the tub full of water. It is also possible to purchase pots and saucers, as well as big trays and grating, which are specifically designed for wick watering from advertisers in this magazine. Some are mainly functional while others are distinctively attractive.

Finally, the wick must offer an unimpeded route for the water to travel. If the wick is pinched so that it does not go straight down into the water, or if it becomes clogged with root growth or mineral build-up, the water molecules may be blocked. Similarly, if the water source goes dry, or if the wick does not quite reach the water, there is no continuous source of water molecules. As a result, the water can no longer follow other molecules along the route and the wick must be restarted. Usually setting the pot in an inch of water for thirty minutes will start the capillary action working again, but in the case of overgrown roots or mineral buildup, it's probably best to repot or at least rewick.

How to get the wick in there? Different growers have different methods. We use a stiff #20 florist wire to make a tool similar to a crochet hook. We hook one end of a wet eight-inch piece of wicking material (we prefer acrylic yarn) and then push the tool into a hole in the bottom of the pot. The wick is pulled through the root system and up to the top of the soil. It is necessary to guess where the wire will come through and work to avoid puncturing leaves. The wick is then tugged down a bit so that the end is just below the soil level. The wicking will start more successfully if the pot stands in an inch of water for several minutes before moving it to the grating or individual reservoir.

A second method of providing constant water is capillary matting. In this system, the potted plants sit on a spongy pad or matting which is saturated with water. The mat provides good contact with the bottom of the pot but keeps the water level below the roots. Some growers like to put wicks in the pots to guarantee that the water moves up and through the soil.

The capillary matting may be any soft man-made material that will retain water and will not rot. Batting, foam carpet padding, or acrylic blanket fabric all work fairly well. The matting must be placed in a tray that will hold water. Some growers like to make a wick from the tray to a source of water to keep the matting constantly wet. We prefer to allow the matting to become dry before pouring additional water into our trays.

Again, it is extremely important that the potting mix be very light and porous to avoid absorbing more water than the roots can tolerate.

A third system for constant water is called "Texas-style potting". This uses pots with holes strategically placed along the sides near the bottom of the pot. Perlite is placed in the bottom of the pot to cover these holes. The pots are then set in a tray of water which covers the holes and allows water to seep into the soil at a predictable rate. Pauline Bartholomew recommends this method in her book Growing to Show and fully describes the method for making a Texas-style pot. It is an effective system, as are the others that have already been described.

A number of specially designed African violet pots are offered commercially. Usually they will be composed of two parts, one to hold the water and one to hold the plant. Each pot is designed so that a small amount of water can reach the soil at all times. Many innovative styles are offered which are made of plastic or ceramic materials. These are oftentimes quite decorative and allow growers to keep beautiful plants in living areas.

Once again, it is very important to be sure the potting mix is porous and provides plenty of air for the roots. Otherwise, the soil will absorb too much water, and the plant will not thrive.

Problems and Cures

Both wicking and capillary matting can result in a few problems for growers. One of the most common is a build-up of algae, a green slimy plant that thrives in stagnant water that is exposed to light. Algae spores are generally found in water and grow quickly when conditions are favorable. Growers may choose to change water frequently, washing trays with bleach before refilling, or they may wish to use an additive called Physan 20 which discourages the growth of algae in water. Physan 20 is offered by a number of advertisers and has been used successfully by many growers.

Minerals in water will also begin to build up on the surface and sides of the trays, especially in areas with hard water. This can be removed occasionally with a vinegar or mild acid solution.

In low humidity there may be extensive evaporation from open trays of water. If this is your situation, it is wise to decrease the amount of the fertilizer added to the water to avoid concentrations of nutrients that could result in fertilizer burn. If your fertilizer is usually mixed at a rate of 1/4 teaspoon to a gallon of water, decrease it to 1/8 teaspoon to a gallon.

A similar reaction can occur if plants are slightly underwatered. Plants must receive enough water to fill cells throughout the plant structure. This prevents minerals and salts from becoming concentrated inside the plant and causing cell damage. Turgid leaves are a good indication that a plant is receiving adequate moisture.

It is still necessary to water plants from the top occasionally in order to leach salts out of the potting mix. Fertilizers contain salts which build up and must be washed out periodically, perhaps every two months or so. When doing this, use plenty of water so that it runs out the bottom drainage holes. Discard this drainage water.

Because wicking and capillary matting often use common sources of water for several plants, there is increased opportunity for insects and fungus to travel

between plants. At the same time, because it is so much easier to fill one tray every week or so, a grower may be inclined to look only casually at individual plants. If the grower isn't seeing a problem, and the problem has a convenient travel route, that problem may get out of control! It requires real discipline to examine plants faithfully when growing with the ease of a constant water system.

Water Quality

Water can vary dramatically from one area to the next. Mineral content, salt levels, wetness and the pH level can greatly affect how plants grow.

If your water is very high in mineral content you may have to adjust fertilizer levels. Agricultural regions, in particular, may have high nitrate levels in water which can cause fertilizer burn marks on foliage. Certain minerals may be in excess and block the absorption of other nutrients. It is a delicate chemistry that may take considerable experimenting to achieve perfection. Local extension agents may be able to assist in analyzing water if you believe you have a problem.

Some areas of the United States have especially high salt content in their water. Similarly, many individuals have softened water in their homes, which has a high salt content. This water cannot be used successfully for long periods of time to water African violets or most other plants. The salt actually draws water out of the cells and mars leaf margins. Older leaves fail more rapidly than necessary and ultimately the plant may die. It is crucial that an alternative water be found.

Water wetness can also vary. If water is slightly soapy, for example, it is wetter and more likely to stick to the potting mix. This can lead to over-saturated soil. It may be necessary to add more perlite (or other soil lighteners) to the mix to allow for more air.

Water pH can also greatly affect a plant's ability to use nutrients. Arid regions tend to have more alkaline water, while rainy regions tend to be more acid. Soil can be mixed to compensate for these factors (usually adding dolomite lime to reduce acidity), or soil can be changed frequently.

Often growers will look for another water source when they suspect that their water is of poor quality. One option is to purchase jugs of water processed in a reverse osmosis system that removes harmful materials. It is possible to install a reverse osmosis system into most home situations and the resulting water seems to be quite good for violet growing.

Collecting rain water may be another option, but use caution. Rainwater which runs off a roof and through drainspouts before being collected may include insect eggs, fungus and bacterial spores. It is necessary to allow the rain to rush over the surface for a period of time before collection begins. This removes most of the impurities and makes the water much safer for your plants.

Distilled water is not a good solution however. Purchased laboratory-quality distilled water may be very pure and contain no minerals. When used over a long period of time, this water can actually draw minerals out of the plant cells resulting in cell wall damage. Water from dehumidifiers is distilled technically, but it is not so pure that it is likely to be as destructive as purchased distilled water. Even then, it may be wise to avoid long-term use.

Humidity and Pesky Fungus

Since many of the constant water systems involve open trays of water, there is a natural increase in the level of the humidity around the plants. This humidity can be a real positive, encouraging flower bud development and extending the life of blossoms. But it can also be a real problem because of fungus disease. Many fungi require high humidity before they begin to thrive. Mildew and botrytis, two very damaging fungi that attack African violets, can be almost uncontrollable if humidity levels reach 80%. That level of humidity may also damage your home or growing area structurally, especially if you live in an area with cold seasons.

There are several solutions. One is to limit the amount of open water that can evaporate. Some growers cover trays with plastic or use plastic-coated matting that has many tiny holes to allow seepage without evaporation. Using individual water reservoirs for each plant in sealed containers also reduces humidity.

Another solution is to allow matting to go dry before rewetting. We have gone to this method without any noticeable loss in the quality of plant growth. A side benefit has been a decrease in the population of pesky fungus gnats and shore flies.

Cost Effective, Practical, and Attractive

Whatever system of watering that is chosen, it must fit the lifestyle of the grower. It must be affordable, easy enough to guarantee that watering gets done on time, and be attractive enough to satisfy the aesthetic tastes of the grower.

Individual self-watering decorative pots are great for hobbyists who have a small collection in their home. They are more expensive than the functional large trays that growers with extensive collections might choose. The large trays under simple pots are not only less expensive, but are faster and easier to fill with water than individual reservoirs.

Regardless of how you choose to water your violets, remember to water them. Water them well, with fertilizer, using the best quality water you can afford. Be sure to provide good drainage and watch the humidity.

Water... it is a real science!

Registration Report

Iris Keating
149 Loretto Ct.
Claremont, CA 91711

REGISTRATIONS

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN
***PROMENADE** (8293) 10/31/95 (D. Harrington)
Double pink large ruffled star/light fuchsia overlay. Medium green, longifolia, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

*****

Frank Tinari - Huntingdon Valley, PA
***ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE** (8294) 11/4/95 (F. Tinari)
Double purple and white sticktite/darker center. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
***BLUE PARADE** (8295) 11/4/95 (F. Tinari)
Single purple ruffled/white sparkle edge. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**
***FANTASY CAMEO** (8296) 11/4/95 (F. Tinari)
Double pink/lavender and purple fantasy. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy. **Standard**
***LITTLE JULIE** (8297) 11/4/95 (F. Tinari)
Single plum sticktite. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**
***LUMINESCENCE** (8298) 11/4/95 (F. Tinari)
Single lilac sticktite pansy/purple ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

*****

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA
***SCHOOL BELLS** (8299) 11/9/95 (C. Cornibe)
Single dark blue bell/white edge. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*****

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN
***REBEL'S AMBROSIA** (8300) 11/22/95 (R. Bann)
Semidouble pink frilled pansy/darker eye, thin white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**

***REBEL'S TAFFY PULL** (8301) 11/22/95 (R. Bann)
Semidouble pink large pansy. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

*****

Genelle Armstrong - Metairie, LA
***JEANNETTE'S HALO** (8302) 11/25/95
(Armstrong/Domiano) Double white frilled/green-edged upper petals. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

***BEWITCHIN' JEANNIE** (8009) Please change blossom to **Double.**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Dolores O'Sullivan-Douglaston, NY
* Moon Dancer * Moon Dreams * Moon Gypsy * Moon Kisses * Moon Madness * Moon Music * Moon Rising * Moon Witchery * Moon Wizard * Moon Whispers

*****

Andrea Worrell-Downers Grove, IL
*Andrea's Dusti Rose * Anita Rae * Anita McCormac * Lovey Bird * My Mommy * Strawberry Spoon

ATTENTION GROWERS AND EXHIBITORS

Fifty-one new Holtkamp hybrids will be registered in the May AVM, in time to be eligible for the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class. They are:

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Optimara) Affection, Alabama III, Alaska II, Centennial, Den Haag, Devotion, Friendship, Gauguin, Glacier II, Grenada II, Hawaii II, Hiroshige, Idaho II, Keepsake, Lanai II, Leonardo DaVinci, Little Crow, Little Omaha, Little Pueblo, Little Seminole, Little Seneca, Little Sioux, Madrid, Michelangelo, Modesty, Monet, New Hampshire II, North Dakota II, O'Keefe, Paris, Picasso, Rembrandt, Tennessee II, Tradition, Van Gogh

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Rhapsodie) Betty II, Carmen, Clementine, Dolly II, Ellen II, Erika, Holly, Marilyn II, Michiko, Natalie, Natasha, Patricia, Rebecca, Rosalie, Stephanie, Teressa

Thinking Small

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As a result of the editing process, this article is being written four months ahead of when you will actually read it. In other words, although it is March and spring is on our doorstep as I write this, it is only November and we have all of winter to look forward to. It is as though I'm looking into a crystal ball! Good luck to those of you holding spring shows; I look forward to reading the results in the "And the Winners Are..." column.

Spring is a great time to weed out those plants that are not performing well and to envision the beauty that new varieties will bring to your collection. It really is a rejuvenating and exciting time of year! Begin perusing the commercial catalogs that have been arriving in the mail and attend local shows to acquire new varieties. Now, on to the subject of how to grow the small ones.

To Begin With . . .

Fertilizing the small ones differs greatly from fertilizing standards. To review, a well-grown standard is clothed in more foliage than a well-grown small one. For this reason, it is not necessary to build great foliage on the small ones. Remember, fertilizer is composed of three primary components represented by three numbers.

The first number represents nitrogen which is responsible for foliar growth. Not only do we need good foliage because it makes our violets look prettier, but because foliage is responsible for photosynthesis, the process by which the plant converts fertilizer into the food it needs to grow and bloom well. Without adequate supplies of nitrogen, our violets simply cannot bloom well!.

The second number is critical to African violets and blooming plants generally! It represents phosphorous, the element that promotes cell division, and ultimately blooming, in flowering plants. Because of it's role in cell division, phosphorous is also critical to good, healthy root growth.

The third number indicates the amount of potash in a fertilizer. The role of potash in the plant life cycle is somewhat mysterious, but experts believe it has something to do with the general health and vigor of the plant.

For the small ones then, use recommended African violet fertilizer with a 1:2:1 or a 1:3:1 ratio (1 part nitrogen to 2 or 3 parts phosphorous to 1 part potash) which reflects their needs. This formulation supplies adequate amounts of nitrogen for healthy leaf production, yet not so much as to make the leaves grow oversize.

An additional benefit of this formulation is when it is time to bloom boost for show, the small ones have had adequate amounts of phosphorous available to them at all times, so using a bloom booster is unnecessary. (Remember, phosphorous, unlike nitrogen and potash, cannot move or "translocate" through the plant. Because of this it must be available to the plant consistently throughout the life cycle.)

A further advantage is that excessive amounts of nitrogen can inhibit blooming, but because the small ones have been getting two to three times the amount of phosphorous as nitrogen, it is not a problem. This is not to say you shouldn't bloom boost, it is simply not as necessary with the small ones as with the standards!

In The Good 'Ole Summertime

In warmer growing conditions, plants will make more efficient use of nitrogen because the bacteria in the soil, responsible for conversion of nitrogen to food, is more active at higher temperatures. It is for this reason a person with a very warm growing area during the hot summer months may need to alter their fertilizing practice.

Experiment with using a product that is lower in nitrogen, or cut back the amount of fertilizer used at each watering. Also, there are some growers who use only fish emulsion as a fertilizer during this time. They claim there is much less damage to their plants than by continuing to fertilize in the normal manner.

Personally, my growing area will differ by 10 degrees from winter to summer. My practice is to use bloom booster on my variegated small ones during the summer months, and to cut back the rest of my collection from 1/4 teaspoon

fertilizer per gallon of water to 1/8 teaspoon. I am very pleased with the performance of my variegated varieties, and notice no culture break with the others. A caveat: I cannot grow a decent variegated standard so I don't have any recommendations regarding these!

A Sure-Fire Foliage Practice

If there is one practice I would recommend more than any other that will show automatic and highly desirable results, it is foliar feeding. This is the process by which nitrogen is supplied to violets through the leaf as opposed to the roots and in a much more expeditious manner. The result is darker, more lush foliage. There have been several excellent articles written on the procedure in the AVM and I will list them at the end of this article*. Here is a brief summary of the process:

1. Use fish emulsion or a fertilizer that states **plainly on it's label** that it can be used for foliar feeding.
2. Place a scant 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer in a quart mister of hot or very warm water.
3. Lightly mist the plants. This should be done as your room temperature is rising. Do not mist so heavily that there is runoff from the leaves or damage could result.
4. Let dry. It is not necessary that the lights be off. If the procedure is done properly, no burning or damage to the foliage will result.
5. Really enthusiastic growers will spray the undersides of the leaves also. This makes sense because the stoma (the openings through which the nutrients will travel) are larger, more numerous and cleaner (a good reason for keeping our plants clean) on the underside of leaves!

Because of our desire to keep them in size, foliar feeding should be done very cautiously with the small ones. The procedure should be repeated at least once a month for best results, more than that and your small ones may get too big!

For-Real or Froo Froo?

There are many additives that can be given to violets that supplement fertilizers. Superthrive, Oxygen Plus, and Nature's Way are just a few. If you choose to use these do so carefully: my attitude is to get the basics down first before attempting to use additives, as the additives do more to benefit your state of mind than to help your plants. Also, you may have to hold back on some fertilizer or alter some other aspect of your violet culture. Remember to begin using additives on a few plants over a trial period of several months before trying it on your entire collection.

Another factor to consider is the nature or your soil mix. If you're using a mix that is full of "pucky": bone meal, bloodmeal, trace elements, greensand, etc., then again, you may need to alter your fertilizing practices.

Pitfalls of Fertilizing

Symptoms of plants that are fertilizer stressed include: tight centers and brown, dried edges of the youngest or the oldest leaves. These symptoms mimic other maladies so be sure you diagnose your problem correctly.

Moving the other direction, if your leaves are pale and anemic, more nitrogen is called for. Foliage that is purplish or burning on the edges could be showing signs of a phosphorous deficiency (but you should recognize this long before the foliage is affected because your violets are not blooming!). If your violets are getting adequate fertilizer, yet still showing these symptoms, check your soil pH. A too high or low pH (6.5 to 7.0 is perfect) will lock up vital nutrients. For a more in-depth discussion of fertilizer concepts, see the excellent article by David Buttram also listed at the end of this article.**

Conclusion

Fertilizing the small ones is critical to good performance, and we can fertilize them differently from our standards with excellent results. It is also through fertilization that we can control their leaf size and span. Occasional foliar feeding will improve the appearance of our small ones, while additives should be used with caution.

In the May issue we will discuss pots for the small ones and soil mixes. In the meantime, make plans to attend local affiliate shows to check out the performance of other growers' small ones, place those precious orders with commercials so you can try something new, and make plans to head to Georgia to celebrate 50 years of violets! I hope to see you there!

*"Must read" articles on foliar feeding:

"Foliar Feeding of African Violets", Marie Burns, 39 African Violet Magazine 3, May 1986, p. 35.

"Foliar Feeding of African Violets, Controversy or Serendipity", Emory E. Leland, 29 African Violet Magazine 3, June 1976, p. 41.

**"Plant Nutrition", David Buttram, 39 African Violet Magazine 2, March 1986, p. 9.

A Request

In previous years we have taken a poll of your favorite 25 "will grow forever" small ones. With your assistance I would like to conduct an informal poll and will publish the results in my review of all the beautiful small ones introduced and entered at convention in Atlanta. Please, take a few minutes, jot down your favorites (anywhere from one or two to twenty-five) and mail them to me. Thanks for your help!

Question Box

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QUESTION: *I recently changed the light bulbs in my fixtures and after a week the centers of my plants seem to be getting tight. I have also noticed that there are 'burn' marks all over the foliage. I can't seem to find the cause for this happening. What has gone wrong?*

ANSWER: To quote from Pauline Bartholomew's book, Growing To Show, "If both tubes are replaced at the same time, the sudden burst of energy will burn sensitive plants." If you replace both tubes, reduce the timer to eight hours. Better yet, break this time with a two-hour 'rest' period. After a week, you can gradually increase the time back to your normal time. Do this in increments of one hour each day.

QUESTION: *After repotting my miniatures, the leaves start to turn brown and blotchy. This is causing much frustration. Do you have any suggestions to help prevent the brown spots?*

ANSWER: What has happened to your plants is called transplant shock. To minimize this, try choosing a time to transplant when the plants are on the dry side. After repotting, don't water until at least 8 hours later. I find that watering too soon will not give the damaged root system enough time to 'heal'. When I repot miniatures, they are severely cut back to three to four leaves and the root system is almost cut away. Some of you may think that this is a radical way to repot, but it works quite well and helps to maintain the small size of miniatures. When the plants are finally watered, use warm water mixed with a weak solution of fish emulsion, combined with Bounty or Sturdy products. I use no other fertilizer on these plants for at least a week. Using the aforementioned method, I have reduced the incidence of spotting.

QUESTION: *What causes yellow or crown variegation to turn brown after repotting? Even after brushing, brown spots appear. Is there anything that I can do to prevent this from happening?*

ANSWER: I wish I knew how to answer this. It seems that yellow or crown variegated varieties are more sensitive to brushing and repotting than any other foliage type. The trick that I learned (through Ralph Robinson) is to make sure that the potting soil is room (warm) temperature before use. Don't touch the foliage when your hands are cold, and **NEVER** water with cool or cold tap water. Always use a soft cosmetic brush on the foliage (any brush that is **SOFT**, will work fine). When repotting, try to leave an extra row of leaves (ones that you would normally take off), since these will likely turn brown after handling, they can easily be removed later. The browning, or bruising, could be due to the absence of chlorophyll, thus making the upper layer of cells more sensitive to touching. If anyone has a more definitive answer to this phenomenon, please write to me.

QUESTION: *What do you think of using products such as Sturdy, fish emulsion, Granny' Bloomers, etc. Do they really add anything to growing more healthy plants?*

ANSWER: Any of these products are wonderful when used as an alternate feeding method to your regular fertilizer program. They provide minerals that may not be available in most conventional fertilizers. If any of you have used any of these products in an experimental program, please share your results with us. One product that I use is Superthrive. Using one to two drops of this product per gallon of water at each watering, does promote a nice healthy shine to foliage. I alternate the use of several fertilizers. I find that this practice helps promote healthy plant growth. After all, how would you feel if you ate spaghetti every day? A good variety, as long as you are consistent, is advantageous.

QUESTION: *What method of watering do you find better, mat or saucer? I use the mat method of watering and I am having all kinds of trouble with algae. What can I do to prevent algae growth?*

ANSWER: I use a combination of both, mats on the bench and saucers under the plants. I use the mats for the purpose of humidity. The method you use depends upon many factors concerning your growing conditions and the size of your collection. If you have low humidity levels of 30% or less, you may want to consider capillary mat watering. If you use this method, it is important to always keep the material on the moist side. If you don't, the plants will dry out and the capillary action will cease. Growing under fluorescent lights, and using the mat system, it is difficult to avoid the growth of algae. I recommend that you purchase an algaecide from your local garden shop, and follow recommended label instructions. There isn't much you can do about the algae, but the algaecide will help. It is good practice to wash your mats at least every two months in hot water to kill any pests that might be present. I do know of those who mix a weak amount of insecticide into the water/fertilizer mixture used on the plants. Doing this at least once a month will help curtail any communicable diseases or pests that might be present. Using saucers will help eliminate the chance of spreading disease and pests, and that is why I use them.

QUESTION: *I have an automatic watering system. That is, a fountain pump immersed into a large bucket of water. Attached to this pump is a clear-plastic hose. This hose is full of algae. How do I clean it? It becomes quite expensive to replace this hose every three or four months.*

ANSWER: Easy! Empty the bucket and clean it with bleach. Next add two gallons of warm water back to the bucket. Add two cups of bleach to the water. Turn the pump on and let the water recycle back to the bucket for at least 30 minutes. Squeeze the hose where clumps of algae forms, this will help to loosen it from the sides of the hose.

QUESTION: *Is it true that variegated varieties like it better if they are grown on the lower shelves of plant stands?*

ANSWER: Variegated varieties grow best if they are placed on the lower shelves. I think this is because these plants require cooler temperatures to maintain their variegated color. Since heat rises, the upper shelves may be too hot. Variegated colors may not form as well, or not at all, if the growing temperatures are too hot.

QUESTION: *I am interested in a product which is automatically dispensed in the air for thrips protection. I need to know what type of insecticide is used and if it is safe. Will it also rid the soil of pests?*

ANSWER: As with any insecticide, liquid or aerosol, read the label instructions and warnings before use. Some are less harmful than others. Without commenting about any specific product, it is my feeling that an automatic aerosol dispenser would be less effective than ordinary manually-sprayed aerosols, unless the critter actually flies through the path of the spray as it is dispensed. This type of dispenser is not very effective against pests that live in the soil. It's main function is more topical, at least this is the information given to me by those who use them.

QUESTION: *I am a novice grower of the beautiful African violet. Is there any way one can speed up the root growth of a leaf?*

ANSWER: There are several methods to rooting a leaf. The best way to start a leaf is to select a young, fresh leaf. You can choose one from the center rings. Actually, any leaf will root, but older leaves seem to take longer. Success depends upon the care and method selected. I find the water-in-the jar method not too dependable. The leaf tends to grow and curl, making planting difficult. Roots that are developed in water are fragile and tender. They often break or rot when planted in the soil. When this happens, the leaf will have to go through the re-rooting process. This adds more time to the time already lost. The method I use was passed down to me by my Canadian friends. I think it is fool proof and I lose very few, if any, leaves. Choose a young leaf and cut it on a 45 degree angle, one inch from the base of the leaf. The cut should be made towards the front of the leaf. The potting mix should consists of one part vermiculite, one part perlite, and one part horticultural charcoal. Moisten the starting mixture thoroughly with room temperature water which contains fertilizer. Fill a 2 1/2 inch pot with this mixture. Plant the leaf close to the edge of the pot. Set the pot into a saucer (or tray) and keep it filled with the same watering solution as used on your other plants. Keep the humidity high, by enclosing your planting in a plastic bag or a transparent container. It is important to provide adequate light during the rooting period, and after the plants begin to appear. Plants should appear in about 1 month (they do for me). There is no easy way to speed up this process, just have patience. When the babies show at least four leaves, they can be separated and transferred to their own small pots.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print

In Search of New Violets

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If you have been following the suggestions made in the last two columns, your pollination efforts have hopefully been successful and your seed pods are now maturing. The next step is to plant the seeds and see what the results of your hybridization efforts have been. A few tips on germinating the seed include the following:

1. Seed must be germinated in a closed container with high humidity. Choose a clear dish or shallow bowl and cover the top with food wrap. A rubber band may be used to hold the food wrap in place. Other closed containers used for rooting leaves are also satisfactory.
2. The germination medium can be made of various materials. A fine grade of vermiculite mixed with some perlite works well. Your favorite soil mixture or leaf rooting mixture will also work in most cases as long as there are no large pieces that might block seed growth.
3. Sterilizing the germination medium is a good idea to prevent fungal problems such as damping-off disease.
4. Break the seed pod open on a small sheet of paper that has been folded once to create a crease. The paper will allow you to see the seeds and the crease will give you some control in sowing the seeds onto the germination medium.
5. Viable seeds are very tiny and usually appear black and glossy. Seeds that are light brown or dull looking will seldom germinate.
6. Sow the seeds evenly onto the germination medium by gently tapping the paper. Adding some fine sand will help separate the seeds and prevent sowing the seeds too thickly.
7. DO NOT COVER THE SEEDS. They must remain on the germination medium's surface in order to grow.
8. Water the seeds gently with a mist bottle or with a fine spray. Use water only; a fertilizer will stimulate the growth of algae that will choke out the seedlings.
9. Be sure that the container is labeled with the parentage of the seeds and the sowing date.
10. Place the seeds under a bright light. Bottom heating the container will also stimulate seed germination. Placing the germination container over the ballasts of your lights often provides good bottom heating.
11. Viable seed should germinate within 7-28 days but some seeds may take longer. Look for tiny green specks to appear on the surface of the germination medium. Keep moist by misting when necessary to prevent drying.
12. Albino seedlings from variegated crosses may need a weak dose of nitrogen fertilizer to green them up. Pure white seedlings will not survive.

In the next issue, tips will be given on moving the seeds to individual containers.

Q: *Are hybridizers still crossing with the species plants for developing miniatures?*

A: I can't answer for all hybridizers, but I doubt that many are still using the species for miniature characteristics. The main species plant that was used, *Saintpaulia shumensis,* has a nice miniature growth habit, but many of its other traits are less than desirable. The other miniature species, *S. pusilla* and *S. inconspicua* have very uncertain histories in cultivation and I am not certain that they were ever used for hybridization.

The miniature growth habit does not always have to be traced to a species. There are records of miniatures having been found prior to the discovery of *S. shumensis*. One of my hybrids, 'Genetic Dwarf', does not have a miniature in its ancestry. It was the only miniature found in that cross which makes mutation, rather than a hidden recessive, the probable cause for the miniature growth habit of that cultivar.

Q: *Why do bicolor flowers, or flowers with a colored eye, change patterns when grown in warm temperatures?*

A: Bicolors and flowers with other types of colored patterns have become very popular with many growers. Unfortunately, the genetic trait that causes this pattern is heat sensitive. The enzymes make the flower colors work better under warmer conditions than they do under cooler conditions. Thus, when the plants are grown warm, there is more enzyme produced and more flower pigment is made. There is little one can do about the situation except to grow these plants on the bottom and cooler shelves of your plant stand. Window sills are also cooler and can be used to keep the flower colors of these plants stable.

Q: *How can I create a trailer with 3˝ size flowers?*

A: This is a very interesting goal and should be possible through standard hybridization techniques. I am assuming that you will be working with a standard trailer. I don't think 3˝ flowers would be very attractive on a miniature trailer (and I doubt that the plant would have the energy to make flowers this size.) Start with a standard rosette plant that has the largest flower size you can find. Work with singles or semi-doubles as these flowers are often larger than full doubles. Cross this plant onto a standard trailer with large flowers. The first generation (F1) offspring should conserve the large flower size, but they will likely lose the trailing habit. Backcross the best F1 to the trailing parent to reinforce the trailing characteristic. Hopefully some of these offspring will have the large flower size you wanted on trailing plant growth.

Another possibility is to cross two F1 offspring together or self-pollinate the best F1. This will give you fewer trailers, but it will help conserve the large flower size. Good Luck!

Q: *Are large African Violet plants polypoids?*

A: Polypoids refer to plants that have several sets of chromosomes. This condition is typical of many plant species and is actively sought in Daylilies and other garden plants because the extra chromosomes result in larger cells, plants, and flowers. Polypoids are known in African Violets. Such plants sometimes have the word 'Amazon' in their names such as *Saintpaulia velutina* Amazon, a polypoid form of the species plant *S. velutina*. While large plants may be polypoids, they do not have to be. Only an examination of the chromosome numbers in these plants will tell for sure.

The Control of Fungus Gnats

by Janet Bandy
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Fungus gnats have long been thought to be just a nuisance pest in our potted plants, but recent studies have proven that they are vectors of viruses. These viruses are introduced into the plants when the larvae of the fungus gnats feed on the tiny roothairs along with their regular diet of decaying vegetation in the soilless mixes that are now used so extensively.

The most effective biological control for fungus gnats is the nematode, Steinernema feltiae, a very small, round worm that enters the fungus gnat larva through its oral, anal, or respiratory openings and begins consuming the larva from the inside. This causes specific bacteria to emerge from the intestinal tract of the nematode. This bacteria spreads throughout the insect and multiplies very rapidly. The bacteria convert host tissue into food for the nematode. Then the nematode begins to reproduce inside the dead and dying fungus gnat larva, and when the immature nematodes reach their infectious third stage, they leave their old host and begin their search for more prey, which may include soil mealy bugs. This entire process takes about 6 to 10 days to complete, and a dramatic decline in fungus gnat, et. al. populations should be observable then.

The nematode, Steinernema feltiae, is packaged in an inert clay-like material which has a shelf life of about 6 months if kept in a cool, dark place. This substance, when mixed with water, can be applied through the watering systems and injectors - as long as these systems are **NOT** connected to drinking water sources. The soil must be kept moist and should never be allowed to dry out during the first 2 weeks after application.

Jim Eyerdom, of Granger Gardens, purchased the Steinernema feltiae (packaged as Entonem®) for use against fungus gnats and it was applied very successfully. Within 10 days, his fungus gnats were gone! Then, he noticed that there was an absence of soil mealy bug in these treated areas. We don't know if this was coincidence, or if the Entonem® really did impact this species, but he and several other African violet growers are working with the nematode to learn these answers - and maybe he has discovered something!

Tally Time 1995

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Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from state and local shows during 1995. This year it is based on 127 reports containing 1804 individual entries.

Show Chairs, please note, the names of winning 1996 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address. They must reach me by November 20 to be counted.

Total Number Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Regis. #	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
STANDARDS					
31	4	4	**Picasso** M. Tremblay #6924	18	5
23	4	1	**Lela Marie** I. Lineberg #5668	14	4
15	3	1	**Harbor Blue** T. Weber #6174	7	4
14	0	2	**Favorite Child** Cox/Johnson #7676	10	2
14	0	1	**Ode to Beauty** Cox/Johnson #7677	11	2
13	0	5	**Party Print** M. Burns #7553	4	4
SEMIMINIATURES					
32	1	2	**Irish Flirt** S. Sorano #7577	21	8
25	2	1	**Precious Pink** H. Pittman #6025	14	8
24	0	2	**Little Pro** H. Pittman #6637	18	4
19	4	3	**Ness' Crinkle Blue** D. Ness #8136	3	9
16	2	1	**Ness' Sno Fun** D. Ness #7469	8	5
MINIATURES					
18	3	1	**Petite Jewel** H. Pittman #7085	5	9
12	1	1	**Mickey Mouse** H. Inpijn	0	10
TRAILERS					
16	1	1	**Rob's Sticky Wicket** R. Robinson #6467	2	12
14	1	0	**Milky Way Trail** J. Stahl #7169	3	10

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES					
23	1	0	**S. grandifolia** S 237	6	16
14	0	1	**S. velutina** S 11	4	9
13	3	0	**S. orbicularis** purpurea S 14a	4	6

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical divisions.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	Geographical Divisions I	II	III	IV	V
STANDARDS						
Picasso	31	2	3	11	12	3
Lela Marie	23	1	3	13	3	3
Harbor Blue	15	2	3	6	0	4
Favorite Child	14	0	6	4	1	3
Ode to Beauty	14	1	10	2	1	0
Party Print	13	0	0	0	9	4
SEMIMINIATURES						
Irish Flirt	32	5	6	8	2	11
Precious Pink	25	4	7	0	7	7
Little Pro	24	3	5	4	9	3
Ness' Crinkle Blue	19	1	10	3	3	2
Ness' Sno Fun	16	4	5	5	2	0
MINIATURES						
Petite Jewel	18	7	1	0	5	5
Mickey Mouse	12	4	3	0	2	3
TRAILERS						
Rob's Sticky Wicket	16	3	0	6	4	3
Milky Way Trail	14	1	2	1	1	9
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES						
S. grandifolia	23	2	5	10	4	2
S. velutina	14	2	2	5	1	4
S. orbicularis purpurea	13	6	2	4	1	0
NUMBER OF WINNERS	336	48	73	82	67	66
NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED		21	29	29	21	27

The states in each geographical area, and number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Alberta-2, California-14, Colorado-3 and New Mexico-2; #II-- Illinois-4, Indiana-2, Iowa-2, Minnesota-2, Missouri-5, Nebraska-1, Ohio-5, Ontario-3 and Wisconsin-5; #III--Connecticut-4, Massachusetts-1, New Brunswick-1, New Jersey-7, New York-10, Nova Scotia-1, Pennsylvania-3 and Quebec-2; #IV--Arkansas-2, Kansas-1, Louisiana-4, Oklahoma-1 and Texas-13; #V--Alabama-4, Delaware-1, Florida-11, Georgia-4, Maryland-1, North Carolina-1, Tennessee-3 and Virginia-2. I move border states around to try to even the areas. No Tally Time sheets were sent from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning 6 or more awards within an area were: #I--Sassy Shirley (6) and Snuggles (6); #II--None; #III--Rob's Fiddle Faddle (6) S. pendula kizarae (7); #IV--Mary Craig (8) Rob's Fiddle Faddle (6) Sassy Shirley (7) and Party Print (9); #V--Fisherman's Paradise (6) and Pat Champagne (6).

Where Have The Golden Years Gone

by Anne Tinari
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It could have been yesterday.... the vivid memory lingers so fresh in my mind with thoughts of the first African violet convention show which I attended on October 7, 1947 in Atlanta, GA. I have attended 48 National conventions over the years. However, as beautiful and well-organized as they are, possibly none can compare with the overwhelming feeling one experiences when they attend their very first convention.

The first show I attended was sponsored by the H. G. Hastings Co., a large seed company in Atlanta, GA. Newspaper articles of the day tell us it was the largest show in the area, attracting interest and greater attendance than any similar show held in the south. Atlanta may be the host of the Olympics in 1996 but we shall never forget what a gracious host she was to our first convention all those years ago.

Having frequently corresponded and exchanged leaf cuttings with many individuals in attendance, it was a real joy to meet those people in the flesh. Mr. Boyce Edens made the greatest impression on me. I have always felt he was one of the principle founders of our society. He had a rich experience of participating and holding high office in the Iris Society, thus providing him great knowledge of organization. His correspondence had always been precise and factual. His handwriting was impeccable, thus being very young, in my minds eye I pictured him as a dashing young southern gentleman. Perhaps my writings to him were not so impressive with all the questions I constantly asked of him and possibly my penmanship was not as neat as his, because he had pictured me as an old lady. When we met he said, "Anne is that really you, I thought you would come in here with a cane." And when I saw him, in his alert, observant manner and stark white hair, a man who would always be young at heart, I responded, "Mr. Edens, you are just as young as I thought." We both enjoyed the joke immensely, embraced and became fast friends. In later years, when he was a guest in our home and greenhouses, he reminded me of that first awkward but delightful meeting.

He played an important role in establishing our bylaws and society principles and immediately set up a nomenclature committee and asked me to serve on it under the capable chairmanship of Dr. W. D. Holley.

To me, the sight of the convention showroom in the Annex Building seemed like dream. People in attendance were from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

A printed classification section was provided and even a judge's score card. One must remember this was long before our judge's handbook was written. All pots were covered in aluminum foil and many plants were in full bloom.

A thousand times I have relived the excitement and enthusiasm of that nostalgic experience. Attempting to give you a crystallized glimpse of those memorable five early golden years, I reminisce.

The rhyme may be wrong, and it may lack rhythm;
Tho' rest assured, my heart is in it.

On a brisk October day;
We boarded the train for Atlanta, G-A!
Bag and baggage we departed;
Fifty years ago this whole thing started.
For a year word had been spread;
A violet convention would be held.
Hastings Seed Co. was our host at large;
And Mr. Charles Hudson was in charge.

Many personalities were in sight;
To meet them in person was sheer delight.
Mr. Edens, an impeccable chap;
Greeted me with such southern tact.
A breathtaking sight, warm beauty and yet;
Though the showroom just dazzled, outside it was wet.
My newspaper is yellowed and crumbles from time,
As I read that three thousand waited in line.

The violets to view were both large and small;
Violets in wash tubs and some on the wall;
Violets in pots too large for their spread;
And some that were sadly hanging their head.
Crowns in the center, and some that were not;
Violets with necks, quick faults one could spot.
Strangely enough pots neatly covered with foil,
Minimizing the fact some plants needed soil.

Oh, they weren't perfect or groomed by the book;
But none could resist a long second look.
Violets galore, staged in brilliant array;
Proudly paved the path for our shows of today.
Captivating violets, radiant! Aglow!
Such fun comparing row upon row!
Cultural conversation was in style;
We jotted down formulas later to compile.

What varieties were there? I am often asked,
To recall each by name is truly a task.
There was Amethyst and Blue Boy, Improved and Supreme,
Pink Lady and Admiral were part of the team.
Blue Eyes and Crinkles, Amazon Pink was new;
Blue Bird, Viking and Neptune were all shades of blue.
S. Ionantha was tops and Blue Girl was a hit.
Ruffles delightful and White Lady looked fit.
The orchids were many, almost leaving me numb,
As I recall Red Head, Bi-Color, Trilby and Plum.
At the top of the list you would have seen,
Blushing Lady, the DuPonts and stately Orchid Queen.
Mrs. Coleman scored first for the most points on awards,
Mr. Wells runner-up took seconds and thirds.
Ionantha Grandiflora captured "Best in the Show:"
By the late Mr. Harvey we were privileged to know.

Through fifty golden years one still feels inspired,
This contagious violet fever has not subsided.
A trunk full of memories spill out in array;
Sighing, I say long live AVSA.

Anne Tinari

In Memory

GRACE FIELDS
Grace Fields of Trevilians, VA passed away in October 1995. A member of the Richmond AVS since 1988, Grace was a grower and judge of African violets for many years. She was also active in the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and promoted African violets through her leadership roles in that organization.

SYBIL BEHRENS
Sybil Behrens, the last active charter member of the Lincoln, NE AV Association, died in November of 1995. A Lifetime Member of AVSA, Sybil contributed many helpful articles to the AVM over the years, and enjoyed experimenting and teaching about violet growing.

DELY UYTANA
Burbank, CA, AVS lost an active and cherished member with the death of Dely Uytana. Dely will long be remembered by the club members for her words of encouragement in growing African violets.

BETTY MOSS
Betty Moss of Houston passed away in December, 1995. Betty was a member of the Spring Branch AVC, the AV Study Club of Houston, a certified judge of the AVSA and served on the Lone Star AV Council. She hybridized several original miniature African violets and received many awards for the quality of her plants in shows.

BILLIE (MRS. WALTER) VOLKMANN
The African violet world is saddened by the loss of Billie Volkmann in January, 1996. The wife of Walter Volkmann, of the Volkmann Brothers Greenhouses in Dallas, TX, Billie was a member of the First Nighter AVS of Dallas for many years and attended many AVSA conventions. Billie was loved and respected by all who knew her.

Growing the "Cool" Species

by Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

When many of us think about the homeland of the African violet, we tend to envision rich rainforests and jungles. In our mind's eyes, we see areas where plants grow densely in deep soil along streambeds and the air is filled with humidity and warmth. When we grow the African violet species in our homes, we often try to duplicate these conditions from our imagination and attempt to provide warm, moist and humid conditions for what we think are delicate and temperamental plants. While some of the African violet species will thrive under these conditions, others will promptly die and we are left wondering why. Didn't we give the plants exactly what they needed to survive?

For some of the species, these warm and moist conditions are a death warrant. Our imagined conditions do NOT match the habitats of where these species are found. If we want to be successful in growing the species, we need to understand each one's needs and habitat requirements. For some of the species, these requirements are "cool", because these plants need cooler growing temperatures in order to survive and flower.

One species with a reputation for being difficult to grow is *Saintpaulia goetzeana*. This species is one of the oldest known, having been originally collected in 1898. Yet, *S. goetzeana* is not found in many collections and has only been reported to flower less than a handful of times. The key to understanding this species is knowing that it was collected at very high elevations of 1300-2000 meters (4300-6600 feet). This plant grows as a creeping herb on mossy rock surfaces in the deep shade of the upland rainforests. These are not conditions that can be easily reproduced in homes and greenhouses. However, given some understanding of its needs, *S. goetzeana* can be successfully grown and may even be encouraged to flower.

The key to growing *S. goetzeana* is cool temperatures. This species will not grow well in constant warm temperatures and it will quickly die if the temperatures become much over 80°F. The most important factor is the night temperature. Growing in the mountains, *S. goetzeana* is adapted to warm day temperatures and cool nights. It will easily tolerate and even thrive in night temperatures as low as 40°F. In fact, it appears that this type of extreme temperature fluctuations between day and night are necessary in order to get this species to flower. No wonder this plant has rarely bloomed in cultivation.

S. goetzeana is also a very fine rooted plant and must be grown in shallow containers with good drainage. Although it enjoys high humidity, drainage must be excellent or the roots and stems will rot. Try growing this species in a very porous soil mixture with lots of perlite to loosen the soil. Water frequently, but make sure that the soil drains rapidly so that the plant is not standing in water.

To duplicate the unusual growing conditions needed by *S. goetzeana*, consider growing this species in unusual locations such as a window sill. The drops of night temperatures on the sills that would damage or kill other African violets is exactly what this species needs. Unheated porches are another possible location to grow this species successfully. As long as the temperatures don't actually go below freezing, this plant can survive and grow well.

Another species with a reputation for being difficult to grow in cultivation is *S. teitensis*. This species was collected in 1938 in the Teita Hills of Kenya and is the northernmost species of African violet known to date. Although the elevation of the collection habitat was not reported, this species is another that requires cooler temperatures. It grows best on the lowest shelves of the light stand and would likely be another good candidate for a window sill plant or unheated porch. The only time I have had this species flower

was when the plants were grown under lights in an unheated cellar. The temperatures never rose above 60°F and were sometimes as low as 40°F. After the flower buds had formed, the plants were moved back to the lowest light shelf where they flowered and made a very nice display. Not only does this species require cool temperatures to flower, but it will be one of the first plants to suffer during the summer when the temperatures of the plant room creep upward.

One of my favorite species plants is *S. velutina*. The long hairs and the rich red-backing of the leaves are an attractive and exotic combination. While this plant is found in many collections, it does have a reputation for being finicky. *S. velutina* was collected in 1916 at an elevation of 900 meters (3000 feet) in the West Usambara Mountains. The habitat was described as damp rocky banks in a shady forest.

S. velutina grows better under cool than warm conditions, but the real trick to growing this species is knowing that it is very sensitive to overwatering. This species must have excellent drainage in order to survive. Use a very porous soil mixture for growing this plant and water slightly less than is usual for other African violets. A good place for growing *S. velutina* is the lower shelf of the plant stand. It will also do nicely at the ends of the shelves where the light intensity is lower. I have not tried growing this species on window sills or unheated porches, but it should do well under these conditions as long as it has adequate drainage. The tetraploid plant, *S. velutina* Amazon and the recently discovered sport *S. velutina* Light require similar growing conditions and should be grown the same way as *S. velutina*.

Another species that does better under cool growing conditions is *S. magungensis* variety occidentalis. This plant was collected in 1959 in the West Usambara Mountains. It was found on a shaded stream bed, growing on soil, but not rocks. While the elevation of the habitat was not given, this plant is very similar to *S. velutina* in its temperature requirements. It grows well under cooler temperatures, but stops growing or dies when the temperatures are consistently above 80°F. Unlike *S. velutina*, however, this species is not particularly sensitive to soil drainage and will tolerate almost any soil mixture. I have never had this species bloom. I suspect that it requires a very cool night time temperature, similar to *S. teitensis*, in order to flower. Since this is a trailing species, it would be very attractive when grown on a window where it could trail over the edges of the sill.

If you only have space for one of the "cool" species, consider growing *S. nitida*. This beautiful species was collected in 1953 in the Nguru Mountains at an elevation of 1000 meters (3300 feet). The habitat was described as being on rocks in shade by a forest stream. This species can be grown as a single or multiple crown plant and is a semi-trailer. It will actually tolerate either warm or cool growing conditions, but the roots do not penetrate the soil very deeply and good drainage must be provided. It is a fairly floriferous species and will respond to high phosphate fertilizer treatments to promote blooming. *S. nitida* does very well on the lower and cooler shelves of the light stand and will give a good amount of color in these sometimes hard to grow areas.

In addition to the lower shelves of the light stands, window sills, and unheated porches, consider setting up a light shelf in an unheated cellar or other cool storage area. While this growing area would be useless for many other African violets, it is perfect for the "cool" species. They will not only grow better under these conditions, but moving these plants to the cool area will open up more space in the warm areas to grow other plants. Another possibility is to grow these species in cool greenhouses that are used for growing bulbs, pansies and other similar temperature plants.

While the species discussed here are not the only African violet species that are "cool", they are ones that you may be familiar with as being difficult to grow. If other African violet species in your collection are not doing well, check references to see where they were collected, especially the elevation of the habitat. Plants collected above 500 meters will usually do better under cool growing conditions. Try moving these plants to cooler conditions and see if they respond with improve growth and vigor. In addition, also check the drainage of the soil. Many of the species were collected on rock faces and ledges and must have excellent soil drainage. A knowledge of the requirements of the species will improve your experiences with them and will make you glad to have them as part of your African violet collection.

The CASE of the MISSING AFRICAN VIOLET

by Don Geiss
Fredric, MI

It was a Wednesday at 2pm when the telephone rang. The lady on the other end of the line said that she had admired a plant that her neighbor had obtained from me. "It had a blue and white flower," she said.

I asked if she had noticed a label stake in the plant, and explained that there were many African violets with blue and white flowers. She hadn't observed the plant that closely, but said that she would call back after visiting with her neighbor again.

In a very few minutes the phone rang again. It was the same lady, who for the sake of this case, I will call Matilda. She said that her neighbor did indeed have a label on the plant and that it was called "Wishful Heart". Thus began the case of the missing violet.

A check on my inventory sheets showed that there was one more plant of that name. A cursory search was made of the almost 1000 plants; we had "Secret Love", "Morning Thunder" and "Midnight Twist"....but no "Wishful Heart".

I asked myself whether the neighbor's plant could have been mislabeled. The Master Variety List was checked, and, sure enough, the description stated, "A semidouble white large wavy star/variable lavender-blue edge, medium green Standard."

Unless my inventory was not up to date, the only other possibility might have been that the plant was not in flower.

I called Matilda back and asked her if she would still be interested if the plant was budded out but not in full flower. She answered that her neighbor's plant was so gorgeous that she would be happy to settle for the plant that was not in full flower.

I began to search out the labels on every plant on the shelves that were not yet in flower, and still the mystery remained.

It suddenly dawned on me that there was yet another possibility. Could it be that the plant had sported, that is deviated from the color of its namesake? I had religiously attempted to follow the suggestion of other violet growers in selecting mother leaves above or below a stem where the flower was true to color.

Once again, I checked the flowering plants, but this time looked for one that retained the characteristics of the flower, but with a different color. Sure enough, there was a beautiful, full-flowered, but blue plant called "Wishful Heart".

Poor Matilda; she was so disappointed. Since I had misled her into believing we had her dream plant, she was invited to stop by and pick out one of her choice. She came to visit and was hard put to make a selection out of a number of 'dream plants' she found.

The mystery was solved, and yet it really wasn't. Despite the fact that I had carefully selected a mother leaf, the plant did not remain true to color. I suspect that the hybridizers could tell me what I might have done wrong. It did not, however, lessen the blow of raising a plant over a period of months only to find out that it was not as advertised.

The mystery plant was eventually sold, but needless to say, it was renamed "Misery Mystery".

OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

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10678 Schoolhouse Lane
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Cape Cod Violetry
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8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
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Pleasant Hill African Violets
Route 1, Box 73
Brenham, TX 77833
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Selective Gardener Catalog
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Teas Nursery
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Tinari Greenhouses
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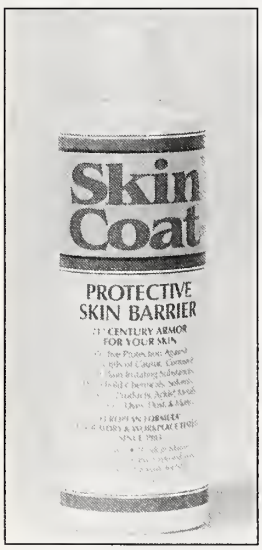
THE AFRICAN VIOLET MARKETPLACE

David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

Skin Coat

Most people are concerned about the more than 50,000 chemicals in the home and workplace that are reported to have toxic effects. Skin Coat is a second level of defense against such toxic chemicals.

The skin is the largest organ of the human body. It serves several functions - chief of which is defense from external irritants, toxins and microorganisms. Gloves and protective clothing are the primary level of defense, but sometimes they can also cause irritations.



Skin Coat is a special formulation that coats the layer of skin immediately below the outer layer of dead cells. It is completely absorbed by the skin and does not interfere with the skin's normal loss of moisture and the skin maintains flexibility. A flexible barrier is thus formed allowing normal perspiration to occur but not allowing dirt, dust and chemicals from entering the pores.

Protection from household chemicals, plant secretions, solvents, petroleum products, metals, paints, dyes, dust, odors and many acids and caustics is claimed by the manufacturer.

Protective barrier creams were first developed in Sweden for their air force where illness to personnel handling jet fuel was a common problem. Skin Coat is a lotion which is non-toxic, non-allergenic and biodegradable. In tests, the lotion has been used for protection against industrial and household chemicals, hydrochloric acid, isopropyl alcohols and hydraulic fluids, bleaches and oven cleaners.

The manufacturer reports that a small amount of Skin Coat is rubbed on the hands or other exposed skin. The Skin Coat "links" the proteins in the outer epidermis of the skin to form a "protective web" which breathes and perspires normally. When thus applied, the skin becomes a barrier. One application lasts from four to twenty-four hours, does not wash off, but leaves the skin through natural processes.

Because Skin Coat actually prevents dirt, grease and chemicals from entering the skin pores, clean-up with regular soap and hand cleansers is easy.

A 4 ounce bottle contains about eighty applications and retails for $6.95. The 12 ounce bottle retails for $13.95.

Skin Coat is available by mail. Call (800) 600 - 1881, (in Los Angeles, (818) 247 - 2170), or send the retail price, plus $3 postage and handling to Skin Coat North America, P.O. Box 533, Verdugo City, CA 91046. For wholesale and distributor inquiries contact Dan Mueller at the above number or address.

DuraGuard™

Fungus Gnats are an unsightly pest for many African violet growers. Whitmire Plant Protection Protects offers DuraGuard™as a solution.

When applied as a "sprench" (an application technique that is between a SPRAY and a DRENCH), DuraGuard™ controls fungus gnat larvae. It is these larvae that do the damage to the African violets. The adult gnats do not directly damage African violets, but they can spread pathogens such as root rot and prythium spores.

The larval stage lives in the soil and feeds directly on plant roots causing stunting of the plant and providing wounds through which pathogens can enter.

If you sell plants, customers notice fungus gnats and are annoyed. The tiny gnats are also likely to infest other plants very quickly.

DuraGuard,™ when properly applied, will last up to 30 days and will provide a timed-released action to kill eggs and larvae due to a microencapulation technology. This technology coats tiny droplets of DuraGuard™ with a resin covering that slowly breaks down releasing the contents in a safe and timely manner.

Other pests, such as aphids and thrips, are also controlled by the broad spectrum DuraGuard™which has been safely tested on African violets.

Contact your AVSA Commercial Members to order DuraGuard™or Whitmire Research Laboratories, Inc., 3568 Tree Court Ind. Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63122. or call (314) 225 - 5371 or (800) 325 - 3668.

Catalogues

AVSA is fortunate to have several commercial members who understand the needs of the African violet grower. Their ads are in the back of this magazine and they are ready and eager to serve the African violet enthusiast.

But what if you need something out of the ordinary - something of a one-of-a-kind sort, then these two suggested

catalogues may help. Certainly, they are informative and fun to read. First is the Urban Farming Source Book , published by Worm's Way Garden Center and Home Brew Center of Bloomington, Indiana. Don't let that last part put you off. Only four pages list beer and wine making supplies. What is really interesting are the previous fifty-nine pages of unusual, off-beat, hard-to-find gardening seeds, supplies and books.

The catalogue is printed in full color and offers equipment for greenhouse owners, including CO_2 generators, lights, a hydroponic systems section, and an extensive line of organic and inorganic fertilizers. A section on beneficial insects with color illustrations makes for interesting reading.

And, yes, worm castings are described as the "Finest Organic Soil Amendment and Fertilizer Available."

For further information, or to order a catalogue from Worm's Way, call (800) 274 - 9676 or visit on the Internet at http://www/wormsway.com

Year after year I look forward to my new catalogue from Mellinger's of North Lima, Ohio. Their recent catalogues have listed a greater selection of seeds with a shrinking variety of supplies. But they still carry a line of unusual supplies and are very quick to fill orders and correct any problems.

One item that caught my eye was an African Violet Plant Tissue Culture Kit for Beginners for $99.95. (If my wife is reading this, hint...my birthday is on May 7th.)

Mellingers carries a nice line of hand sprayers and hand tools and fertilizers, although their selection of pots is somewhat limited.

When I was a boy in southern Missouri, I visited my Uncle Jim on his farm. He would often apply an udder cream to his milk cows when they had been injured or irritated. Udder Cream is now available in 10 ounce jars for $5.00 Described as "A pleasant blend of rich emollients and lubricants with no hint of greasiness or stickiness. Unbelievable healing power for hard-working hands. A light, non-clinging fragrance."

If Udder Cream doesn't suit you, then try Old World Beeswax Lotion, which is claimed to have "the subtle scent of honey, plus all its healing powers! Moisturizes, softens and protects your skin from the ravages of water, winter...and work. So gentle." It comes in a 4 ounce tube for $4.75.

These are just two of the many items listed in the 1996 catalogue.

For more information or a catalogue, call (216) 549 - 9861 or FAX (216) 549 - 3716.

Growing Guide

The John Henry Company has just introduced a 96 page comprehensive guide in their Home Plant Care Series for the care and enjoyment of plants in the home. Titled Beautiful Blooming and Foliage Plants...Your Complete Guide to Growing and Caring For Flowering and Foliage Plants.

Plant care information, pest,and disease identification and light, temperature and watering guidelines are discussed. The cost is $5.95 each plus 7% postage and handling. Contact the John Henry Company at (800) 748 - 0517 or FAX (517) 323 - 4707.

The above reviews are for the information of the readers of the African Violet Magazine and are based on information provided by the manufacturer or exclusive distributor. These reviews do not state or imply approval or disapproval bt the author or the African Violet Society of America. Inc.

"I Would Never Have Suspected..."

by Barbara W. Thompson, Atlanta, GA

"Holy smoke!" "Jumpin' catfish!" "What in the world is going on?" Each day, for about the past five months, I would utter one of the above as I walked into my plant room and viewed all of my unhappy, miserable-looking African violets. They were dejected, with few healthy leaves or blooms.

I concluded, after a time, that all of my "precious babies" were going to end up in the trash. The exhilarating, rewarding satisfaction that I had felt in my few years of growing was fading fast...right before my eyes. What was the key to this disaster?

In desperation, I tried sprays, foliar feeding, the works - anything I read, or was told, would work. Nothing had a positive corrective effect and in the back of my mind, I was ready to yield to defeat.

Some very serious reflecting began, back to when my woes set in. I had changed stands twice, and gone to trays instead of individual reservoirs. After a period of adjustment for the plants was allowed, the situation looked dismal. There was another culprit, I determined, but what?

Frantically, I pulled out an old combination thermometer, barometer, and hydrometer.

The cloud of mystery began to fade!

The humidity was "Very Dry"! My furnace, plus the additional lights were sapping up all the moisture!

I put trays around the room and filled them with water. One was filled with water and placed in front of my fans, another, in front of the heat vent. In only one day, the plants were visibly better, though the hydrometer reading was "Dry".

The next course of action was to pull out an old retired humidifier, once used for my children, and put it to work.

It was miraculous! As the seconds passed, my plants were improving - stretching out, greening up, setting new buds and were on the road to recovery. (Everyone in the house felt better, too...) The reading on the hydrometer went up to 52%!

Now, instead of my earlier cries of dismay and confusion, I tell myself, "Even when things seem to be working well, be alert for the unexpected. Take nothing for granted!"

AFRICAN VIOLETS and the INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

by Dr. Jon C. Lovett
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Africa! What images does that evocative name bring to mind? Endless savannah with boundless game. Towering snow capped volcanoes. Vast dark forests. Mighty rivers. Huge lakes. Origin of man. Busy bustling markets with vibrant colors and cheerful crowds. Cities and skyscrapers. Africa is enormous! A mosaic of cultures. A diversity of wildlife. A place of ageless time. How does the African Violet fit into this rich tapestry? Where does it grow and where does it come from?

On the eastern coast, inland from Zanzibar, the spice island, east of the mighty Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest peak, lies a chain of mountains. Like a series of emerald jewels set in the gold of the African plains, the Indian Ocean monsoon brings life to luxuriant rain forest on their slopes. These are the **Eastern Arc** mountains, ancient crystalline peaks that were in existence before Kilimanjaro was born 1 million years ago. Early relatives of man are said to have walked in the shadow of these mountains 2 million years ago. There were mountains here before the great rift ripped open Africa's crust from the Red Sea to Lake Nyasa. These mountains watched the great central African plateau rise 10 million years ago. The forests on the Eastern Arc and those on the adjacent coastal plains could have been there for 30 million years or more. Their great age and isolation have led to the development of a unique flora and fauna. Some biologists have called them a land-locked Galapagos: forest islands in a sea of dry savannah. About one third of the 2000 or so Eastern Arc forest plant species are found only here and nowhere else on Earth. Some of these rare plants are relicts, left behind after rifting and uplift separated the eastern forests from the great Congo sylvan tracts. Others are derived from drifters, plants that have arrived from other places, settled and changed into unique species. This makes the Eastern Arc a biodiversity "hotspot" of global importance. A special place.

Perhaps the most famous of the unique plants is, of course, the African violet. Although their name refers to an entire continent, they are found in only a very small area: from the ancient Eastern Arc and Coastal forests. Growing in dark shade, on damp rocks and tree boles, is that familiar little rosette of leaves and charming flowers. When you next tend your violets, think of their natural home and how their origins affect the best way to make them flourish. Keep them out of direct sunlight, in the wild the only sun they would see would be flecks breaking through the rain forest canopy. Take care when watering. They come from a humid home, but would not receive rain directly on their leaves and their roots are well drained. Although there are now about 40,000 cultivated varieties, there are only 21 wild species. Many of these are only known from a single mountain peak, some have only been discovered in the last 10 years. Despite their popularity, the wild species are not well known and their taxonomy is not well understood, a fact reflected in the species names "difficilis" and "confusa" given to two of them!

Where did they come from? African violets are in the genus *Saintpaulia* which belongs to the family Gesneriaceae which has 146 genera and about 2400 species. Their nearest relatives are probably the African

I assume this plant is Saintpaulia goetzeana. *It was photographed on the Uluguru mountains at about 1900m in elevation, but no reference collection was made.*

Saintpaulia ionantha *is the most widely distributed African Violet, from Tanga in north east Tanzania to the Matumbi Hills and Udzungwa mountains in southern Tanzania. This photograph was taken in what is now the Udzungwa National Park at 800 meters in elevation on the Sanje River.*

Primroses, *Streptocarpus*, of which there are many species in eastern and southern Africa, but none of the continental African *Streptocarpus* bear any resemblance to *Saintpaulia*. The African Primroses differ from African violets by having a twisted fruit (*Strepto* = twisted, *carpus* = fruit), a bell shaped flower and in general, by not having leaves in a rosette with long petioles. I say "in general", because there are however three species of *Streptocarpus*, only described as recently as 1967, which are remarkable in looking very similar to *Saintpaulia*, except that the fruits are twisted and the flowers are not as flat as most species of *Saintpaulia*. In this latter character they are rather similar to *Saintpaulia pusilla* from the middle mountains of the Eastern Arc. These three unusual *Streptocarpus* come, not from continental Africa, but from the island of Madagascar, a land of remarkable plants and animals that is considered by some to be a continent in its own right. Is it possible that *Saintpaulia* originated on Madagascar?

Now we enter one of the great puzzles of plant geography that presents a riddle to taxonomy, the study of plant classification. Geological evidence suggests that Madagascar reached its present position in the Indian Ocean 121 million years ago. Thus continental Africa and la Grand Ile have been separated by the salt waters of the Mozambique channel for longer than we can easily grasp. Yet there are many links between the flora of the Eastern Arc and the forests of eastern Madagascar besides that of *Saintpaulia* and the strange *Streptocarpus*. Do these links predate the ancient separation of the continents? Botanists consider that the family Gesneriaceae is not old enough for the *Saintpaulia - Streptocarpus* link to be a relictual pattern. Or is *Saintpaulia* a drifter? It is difficult to imagine our little forest under storey beauty making an incredible journey across the salty Mozambique channel, but there is a huge amount of time in which a series of seemingly impossible coincidences could make the trip a reality. If it happened once, perhaps it happened a dozen times, or a hundred times, or even a thousand times.

In, say, 30 million years, the incredible journey would have had to have taken place only once every 30,000 years for 1000 botanical contacts between Madagascar and continental Africa. A lot happens in 30,000 million years, events of which we have little or no experience. An ice age can come and go. Massive meteorites can smite the Earth. Whole islands can violently disappear in steam and volcanic dust. With these events come strange happenings. In July 1884, pumice rafts, human skulls and bones washed ashore on Zanzibar, thought to have come from the Sunda Straits 6170 km away, a year after the island of Krakatau exploded. Perhaps there has been a flow of log rafts, or once in a millennium storms carrying aloft whole mats of vegetation, taking plants from Madagascar to be deposited hundreds of kilometers away on eastern continental Africa. This scenario presents a dilemma to the plant taxonomist.

Saintpaulia pusilla *occurs in montane forest on the Ulguru, Nguru and Ukaguru mountains. The flowers are somewhat more campanulate than other African violets, and in this character it resembles the group of Madagascan* Streptocarpus *that approach* Saintpaulia *in leaf shape and habit. This photograph is of a plant from the Nguru mountains.*

The traditional view of differentation that leads to creation of separate species is that two populations must be far even apart or otherwise isolated to prevent interbreeding. But, as any plant breeder knows, hybridization is common enough if given the opportunity. If plants are indeed moving around the globe as easily as the African violet seems to have done, then a wild species as we know it, is actually the product of serial hybridization. Just like many cultivated varieties, where human hand overcomes nature's barriers, except that in the African wild it just takes a little more time.

SPRINGTIME IN ATLANTA

The weather will be great to walk the outside trails at the hotel, and explore beautiful Atlanta, but just as much fun are the inside activities like shopping and eating. Conventioneers who like this (and who doesn't?) are in for a real treat. Across the street from the Crowne Plaza Ravinia is one of the largest malls in Atlanta - Perimeter Mall. There are three anchor stores; Rich's. J.C. Penney, and Macy's, as well as 185 other shops with a food court of 20 newly renovated eateries with all your favorites included.

A few more blocks up the street are many more restaurants and shops to find that perfect Atlanta souvenir.

If you don't want to shop, do the chop! See the 1995 World Series Champs - the Atlanta Braves.

Sunday	May 19, 1:10 pm	vs	Cincinnati
Mon/Tues	May 20/21, 7:40 pm	vs	Chicago
Wednesday	May 22, 1:10 pm	vs	Chicago

Call 1-800-326-4000 for ticket information.
Send in your reservation now so you don't miss any of the fun at the Atlanta convention!

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Stone Mountain park
$17/day Full Hook-up
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"It Brings Back Memories" Contest

WHEN?
Thursday night, May 23, during the "Let Me Tell You About My Violets" Forum and the Social Hour & Slides.

HOW DOES IT WORK?
Wear or bring an item which brings back memories of a past AVSA Convention.

WHO ARE THE JUDGES?
Everyone! Everyone gets one vote. It's your job to get the votes!

WHAT IS THE PRIZE?
It's a surprise! 1 for men and 1 for women.

CELEBRATE AVSA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY IN SOUTHERN STYLE!

Enter the GONE WITH THE WIND Character Contest Friday night, and have a complimentary picture taken with Rhett and Scarlett before our "Road To Tara" banquet! We hope to see all those colorful characters who once graced the halls of Tara and Twelve Oaks, and lovely Peachtree Street in Atlanta.

So, pick your favorite character and come dressed to win! There will be many categories and prizes. Fun for all!

Take the PLUNGE

by
Linda Golubski,
Blue Springs, MO

Have you ever looked at an underwater design and wondered, "How did they do that?" Here's how.

There are two important aspects of an underwater design. The first is finding a proper bowl and the second is blossom selection.

Give some real thought to a bowl. Select one with a wide enough mouth to get your hand in and out of easily. The next consideration is shape. After many years of using a totally round bowl, I have now gone to flat sided bowls. You're probably thinking round is more symmetrical and pretty. Give this some thought. Whatever part of your design that is not in the absolute center of the bowl and sticks out into the rounded part is greatly magnified. I once did an outstanding design (no modesty there), put it in my large round bowl, filled it with water and presto! What an ugly, oversized, distorted design. If you are using a round bowl always try some of your plant material in the bowl underwater before the day of the show. Save yourself my embarrassment.

Flat sided fish bowls (rounded on the ends) are excellent and inexpensive. If you choose a round bowl try to find an elongated one rather than a global shaped one, but if you choose a global bowl, keep as much of your design in the center of the bowl as possible.

The second most important item in your design is the blossom you choose. Pick one with a thick stalk. It is easier to work with and hardier. Select a blossom with dark, vibrant color. I personally like reds and purples. Pale flowers become transparent sooner and they don't "stand out" underwater. My most favorite blossom underwater is "Tomahawk". The color is outstanding and it will stay underwater for 3 days before becoming transparent.

After those two items are out of the way, read and understand your show schedule. Implied theme can be used rather than literally translating the theme.

Choose your line material. If you have a delicate flower select delicate line material. If you choose a large blossom select a heavier line material.

The next consideration is a personal preference, whether you choose a fine pointed frog that must be secured to the bottom of the bowl with floral stickem, or a weighted base, make sure that it will stay down. There is nothing worse than creating a lovely design, attaching it to the bottom of your container, putting the water in, and watching your design float to the top of the water. Again, I emphasize trying this out ahead of design day.

Once I have my design completed and attached to my frog, I take hot glue and pour it on the top of my frog between the stems. This works well for me to keep everything "under water". The blossoms will wilt a little sometimes, but as soon as I put the water in the bowl they're fine. I do this right away. Also remember that your blossoms, even though attached, will float.

Select a covering for your bowl floor that suits the theme. Glass marbles, rock or sand make good coverings. Be sure to use neutral colored items and don't use too many. Be sure your mechanics are covered. Depending on the theme, a small shell or some of your ground cover or a piece of your line material could be used.

Remember, keep it beautiful, but simple. A good rule of thumb taught to me is, "If you think the design needs something else, remove something."

Try an underwater design. They are challenging and intriguing!

Showcase

Brazos Stormy Skies

Best of Class
1995 National Show
Exhibited by:
Richard Nicholas
Hybridizer: ***Raymond Scott***

Ness' Viking Frost

Hybridizer: ***Don Ness***
of Midland Violets

Fantasy Bells

1995 Introduction

Hybridizer:

Hortense Pittman

Quiet Expression

1995 Introduction

Hybridizer: ***Barbara Elkin***

"And the winners are..."

Al & Cathy Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Please take your time when you fill out the "AND THE WINNERS ARE..." form. If possible, use a typewriter. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you write to us.

Each column contains everything that we received by that AVM deadline. For example, everything that we received by December 1, 1995 is in this column.

AV CLUB OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Magnolia, Elizabeth, Beau Jester; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus* 'Hildebrandtii', **Joan Cumpton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Granger's Wonderland, Elizabeth, **Nancy Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bee Boopsie, Rob's Magnetic Field, Petite Jewel; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Jim Wright**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jupiter's Joy, Prancing Pony, Rob's Boondoggle, **Lois Holst**. Best in Show: Bubblegum Halo; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dandy Lion; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean Wright**. Best Trailer: Sundown Trail, **Susan Bradley**. Best Design, **Laura Walker**. Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Laura Walker** and **Lois Holst**.

AV STUDY CLUB OF HOUSTON, TX - Winners: 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Rodeo Country, This Bud's Mine; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch', **Marilyn Hall**. Best in Show: Party Print, **Roy Hall**. Best Miniature: Lyon's Ice Princess; Best Semiminiature: Party Lace; Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Laura Liggett**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Paul Downs**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**.

CALIFORNIA STATE AV CONVENTION & SHOW (1995), CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Tomahawk, Maas' Mary Lou; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Denim Demon, Wee Be, Little Pro; Best Design, **Cathy Cornibe**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Rose, High Tide, Sister Ancilla, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shy Blue, Definitely Darryl, Snuggles; Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue, **Carroll Gealy**. Best in Show: Bertha, **Dorothy Kosowsky**. Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Irene Boro**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Dale Martens**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpella* 'Concord Blue', **Dee Probert**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**.

CEDAR VALLEY AV CLUB, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode To Beauty, Tiger, Kiwi Dazzler, **Nancy Price**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Windy Day, Ode To Beauty; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Design, **Barbara Pershing**. Best in Show: Candy Swirls; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Ruby Chips', **Catherine Thompson**. Best Trailer: Sky Diver, **Nancy Mahood**.

DELTA GESNERIAD & AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*; Best Trailer: Falling Snow; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, **June Fallaw**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Shirley, Ness' Sno Fun, Irish Angel; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Sassy Shirley; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Doris Weaver**. Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Cinnabarina', **Jeani Hatfield**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**.

GEORGIA AV JUDGES SOCIETY, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiwi Dazzler, Pensi Classic, Marvel; Best in Show: Pensi Classic; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joan Cumpton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Fisherman's Paradise, Ghost Dance, **Pierce Cumpton**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Miss Priss, Jupiter's Joy, Rob's Whippoorwill; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Ice Maiden, **Lois Holst**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Fire Lizard', **Ellie Jordan**. Best Design, **Laura Walker**. Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Laura Walker** and **Lois Holst**.

HEART OF DIXIE AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Omaha, Tooch; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Kiss, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Elfin Honey; Best in Show: Omaha; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Dazzle Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Christie Thomley**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Super Duper, Hello There, Fantasy Flash; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Tipped Honey, Snuggles Blushing Doll; Best Design, **Sherry Buie**. Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Ruth Buie** and **Sherry Buie**.

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Louise Constant, Picasso, Mary Craig; Best in Show: Mary Craig, **Martha Turner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rain Man, My Wicked Ways, Tomahawk; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wind Chimes, Rob's Catch Me, Rob's Whodunit; Best Miniature: Red Bandito, **Hector Becerra**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hector, Precious Pink, Pat Champagne, **Joyce Kimbro**. Best Trailer: Bellwood Trail, **Alma Hummer**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Margery Clive**. Best Gesneriad: Columnea 'Light Prince', **Dolores Gibbs**. Best Design, **Joyce Stenger**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**. Best Commercial AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Sassy Shirley, Pride Of Columbus; Best Semiminiature: Sassy Shirley; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hortense Pittman**. 2nd Best Commercial AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Twinkle Pink, Petite Jewel, Timid Teen, **Ken Froboese**.

MID AMERICA AVS, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Big Charlie, Ocean Eyes, Pink Patti; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whodunit, Winnergreen, Rob's Sugar Cube; Best in Show: Pink Patti; Best Semiminiature: Winnergreen, **Ruby Cox**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Maggie Lee, Apache Land, Rapid Transit; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Red Mist, Rob's Twinkle Pink, Ness' Angel Babe; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Sue Hill**. Best Gesneriad: *Codonatanthus* 'Aurora', **Norma Weir**.

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, NE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Paumanok, Phantom Flash, Windy Day; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Candy Crystals, Ness' Angel Glitter, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Kent Stork**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Paumanok, Sweet Mama, Maggie Lee; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Nearly Perfect; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. Best Miniature: Teen Queen; Best Gesneriad: *Koellikeria* 'Erinoides', **Ramona Donnell**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House Of Amani, **Catherine Thompson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones**.

OHIO STATE AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ohio Heritege, Painted Sunrise, Ness' Shirley's Delight; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jupiter's Joy, Precious Pink, Definitely Darryl, **Florence Borton**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Orchid Trail; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Mary Martin**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Design, **Marian Tisdale**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita Sinensis* 'Hisako', **Eileen Lott**. Design Sweepstakes, **Cathy Black**.

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Hello There, Flash Fire; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hot Jazz, Sassy Shirley, Snuggles; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Sassy Shirley; Best Miniature: Dean's Ivory Lace; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Arlene Pappas**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Firefly, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Definitely Darryl; Best Trailer: Fun Trail, **Carroll Gealy**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* seedling, **Mary Pat Weber**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Burde**.

TRISTATE AV COUNCIL, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Evening Shade, Lela Marie, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best in Show: Lela Marie; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **David Tooker**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Sunspot, Rob's Macho Devil; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Gesneriad: Nematanthus 'Cheerio', **Ron Ennis**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Design, **Dale Jasaitis**. Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichoski**.

VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Shy Blue, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Petite Pink; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George McDonald**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lovely Linda, Rob's Denim Demon, Rob's Gal Vikki, **Ann Shill**. Best Trailer: Westward Trail, **Dale Monnard**. Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, **Martha Walker**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Peggy Adamson**.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Back In Time, Lela Marie, Optimara Virginia; Best in Show: Back In Time, **Bonnie Henell**. Best Miniature: Bokay Corral, **Marguerite Isbrandt.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Blue Moon, **Meredith Roe**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Dots; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Robertson; Best Gesneriad: Nematanthus 'Tropicana'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mae Mueller**.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • P.O. Box 38 • Oreland, PA 19075-0038

Donations received from September 20, 1995 - November 20, 1995:

First Goldsboro AVS, Goldsboro, NC	$20.00
In memory of Mr. C.W. Twiford, husband of our charter member Mrs. Ethel Twiford.	
Jack and Audrey Hanthorn, Vista, CA	25.00
In memory of the mother of Betty Roberson	
AVS of Springfield, Springfield, PA	50.00
In lieu of a speaker's fee to Kurt Eckard	
Springfield Chapter AVS, Springfield, MO	20.00
Heritage AVS of Long Island, New Hyde Park, NY	15.00
In memory of John Kustek, father of Bob Kustek	
Four Seasons AVC, Groves, TX	20.00
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In lieu of speaker's fee to Janet Haag	
Unpredictables AVS, Independence, MO	10.00
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Tristate African Violet Council, NJ	15.00
In lieu of judges expenses to Sandra Skalski, Carolyn Klein, and Gloria Rutmeyer	
Bellflower AVS, Bellflower, CA	10.00
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Wade D. Smith, York, PA	22.00
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AVSA Booster Fund

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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OCTOBER 1st - NOVEMBER 30th

Ohio State AVS	$50.00
Violet Tender, Durham, CA.	10.00
Tennessee Valley AV Club, Knoxville, TN.	20.00
In celebration of our member, Floretta Willets' 95th birthday!	
Mr. Lau Hin Cheung, Hong Kong	22.50
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Tristate AV Council, in lieu of travel expenses	10.00
Lee & Marion Allen, Levittown, PA. in memory of Flora Semen & Hilda Vander Meer	
Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH.	25.00
Normandy AVC, St. Louis, MO.	10.00
In honor of Mrs. Estelle Droste, a long time member and a hard worker in all of our activities	
Jefferson AV Association, LA.	25.00
Total	**$357.50**

eye on DESIGN

small arrangements

by Bob L. Green
Rockledge, FL

Fascinating to the viewing public and favorites with exhibitors who have to travel great distances by car or plane, small arrangements are immensely popular in our African violet shows; and they are most amenable to the size and fragility of the African violet blossom.

Small arrangements, according to the AVSA Handbook, are "arrangements not exceeding eight inches in their greatest overall dimension." I have always had difficulty with this definition, because dimension may apply to height, width, and depth -- not just height. For example, if a small arrangement is to be staged in a niche 9″ high, 9″ wide, and 6″ deep, could the arrangement be 3″ high by 8″ wide and still be considered a small arrangement? Why not? It would not be over 8″ in its greatest overall dimension. But, it would look ridiculous, wouldn't it, with 6″ of unoccupied space above the arrangement? Therefore, I have always used my own definition that a small arrangement is one not exceeding 8″ in height, but adequately uses the available space of the niche.

Creating a small arrangement does not merely mean that you put some small African violet blossoms in a small container and back the blossoms with a leaf or twig. You must insure that the blossoms and other materials are all small in their own sphere, and that your entire arrangement is really a design on a small scale. In a small arrangement, a blade of grass can assume the same significance or importance as an iris leaf in a standard arrangement.

A small arrangement is composed of small sized plant materials (naturally small or whittled or cut down and manipulated by the designer) in good proportion to the allotted space of a niche or the dictates of a show schedule (when staged on a pedestal or other staging device). If the allotted space is 10 or 12 inches, a small arrangement still must be no greater in height than eight inches even though the arrangement will not be in proportion to the allotted space (this would be a problem that was created by the staging committee, and the judges should certainly not deduct points). On the other hand, if an exhibitor enters an arrangement and has not adequately used the full height of 8″ (for example, an arrangement of 3 to 5″ in height), then the judges should deduct appropriate points since the arrangement would not be in good proportion to the allotted space. Many exhibitors like to make small arrangements of 3 to 5″ in height (what we used to call miniature arrangements), but when these are displayed in a show they should be staged in shadow boxes or other manner appropriate to their size so that they will not be out of proportion to the allotted space. And, they would still be judged with the same AVSA scale of points as small arrangements (small arrangements are judged with the AVSA scale of points for interpretive flower and plant arrangements).

Scale is of paramount importance in choosing materials for small arrangements. The size of any container used should determine the height and width of the arrangement, as well as that of blossoms and plant materials. As a general rule, an arrangement should be almost twice as tall or wide as the container, with the largest blossom not more than 1/3 the size of the container.

Hunting for small foliage will channel your attention on plant growth you may not have noticed before. You will see buds, pods, vine tendrils, weeds, and terminal shoots of shrubs and tree branches in a new and exciting light.

When looking for materials, have your container with you to compare sizes. Leaves or twigs that by themselves look small might be too large for your container. Only a small amount of material is needed for a small arrangement. Crowding destroys distinction and excess obscures detail.

Just like a standard arrangement, a small arrangement needs some mechanic to hold plant materials in place. I use the tiny pinholders. Other ways would be to wedge a tiny piece of Oasis into your container or stickum (floral adhesive) may be used if your material is not too heavy. Of course, liquid Oasis floral adhesive or hot glue may also be used if you have a steady hand.

Several tools help greatly in making small arrangements. Small manicure scissors are a must for intricate trimming. Long nose tweezers are much better than your fingers for inserting small stems and twigs into tiny openings in containers and for placing small blossoms in your arrangement. A medicine dropper or empty eye drop bottle filled with water are handy for adding water to help maintain the freshness of your blossoms and other live materials; and you will most certainly have to add water frequently during the course of a show, because a drop or two of water evaporates quite fast in the heat of the surrounding air.

Tops of cosmetic bottles, thimbles, small shells, acorn cups, lipstick holders, and many doll house items are examples of useful containers for small arrangements. You can also make your own containers for small arrangements from modelling clay, dough, or carve them from soap. The insides of these made containers should be sealed with melted paraffin or candle wax to make them watertight. The outsides may be painted with acrylic paint to suit your color scheme.

Small arrangements look better if placed on suitable bases, and the bases are as useful to small arrangements as they are to larger arrangements (giving visual and actual stability to the arrangements), but they must be in proportion. Suitable bases are small mirrors, large flat buttons, small pieces of cork, wood, stone, slate, and sample paint and formica chips. You can also cut bases from cardboard and paint or cover with foil or fabric. Whichever base you use, though, must be in visual proportion to your arrangement; and your arrangement should be secured to the base by either gluing to the base or securing it with stickum. This will insure that your arrangement is not toppled over by the hustle and bustle in the show room or viewing area.

Before leaving your small arrangement for judging, make sure that you have carefully trimmed it so that no part of it exceeds 8 inches and the allotted space, paying particular attention to the height; as a small arrangement may not appear to exceed the height boundary of a niche until you back off and look at it from a distance, at eye level. Also, gently blow on your arrangement to insure all components are suitably stable. Make sure, too, that there is not one bit of debris (plant material trimmings or anything else not part of the arrangement) in the niche or on the pedestal or other staging device, as any amount of debris, no matter how minute, will be magnified by the judges' eyes and will certainly cause your arrangement to lose points. Since small arrangements are usually staged at eye level, the least little bit of foreign matter will be detected by the judges.

Small arrangements can also be made without the use of a container. I usually just use the tiny (7/8˝) pinholder to hold my line material, and then secure my blossoms and any other material to the line material with liquid Oasis floral adhesive. Of course, I camouflage the pinholder in some way so that it cannot be seen from the judging side.

Accessories may be incorporated into small arrangements very well, so long as you remember to use tiny accessories in proportion and scale to your total arrangement. In many cases, since small arrangements must interpret specific class titles, accessories are necessities. But, when using accessories, you must always guard against depicting a miniature scene rather than creating an arrangement.

Judges may deduct as many as 20 of the 40 points allocated to design in the AVSA scale of points for scale in small arrangements. Scale is the relative size of one component to another in a small arrangement.

I transport my small arrangements in empty cardboard shoe boxes. I place the basic arrangement (everything except the base and fresh plant material and blossoms) in the box with tissue paper tucked in around it so that it doesn't move around in the box. Any accessories or other components of the arrangement (extra line material (dried) in case of mishaps), the base, and any fresh materials are placed in individual plastic baggies and gently placed in the box. Fresh materials are gently wrapped in damp paper towels before putting in a baggie, and that baggie is placed in the box last. The remainder of the box is filled gently with folded paper or paper towels, and the lid is secured to the box with rubber bands. When removing materials from the box, be ever so careful so as not to break any components (such as small twigs, grape tendrils, etc.) of the arrangement. In another shoe box, I place all the tools I might need.

Don't think that because small arrangements require far less materials than standard arrangements and are so much smaller that they are easier to do than standard arrangements. In actuality, the opposite is true -- small arrangements are much more difficult. Small arrangements leave little room for embellishment and take more time and extreme patience. Whereas in standard arrangements you may get by with inexact proportion and scale, any such discrepancy in a small arrangement will be greatly apparent. So, it is best to become adept at making the larger arrangements before undertaking your hand at making the small arrangements. If not, you will tend to be all thumbs with the small arrangements and your patience will be extremely tested. I speak from experience, of trial and many errors -- it took me several years of doing large arrangements before I felt comfortable doing the small ones.

Effective Club Programs

by Kyle Coleman, Fort Worth, TX

AVSA Affiliate clubs have so many good growers, but many are afraid of sharing their experience and expertise with their local clubs because they are intimidated by the thought of giving a program or presentation. Some of them are not sure how they can convey their ideas to their friends, but effective communication becomes easier when you use the basic avenues of learning to share your ideas.

The whole point of your program should be to share information with your violet friends. Because different people learn in different ways, your program should use all three major avenues of learning to be effective and efficient. These three avenues are sound, sight, and touch. Some people learn best by using sound or listening, other people learn more efficiently using sight, such as reading or watching a demonstration. Some people are at their best when learning by touch — as with workshops and hands-on training. By combining these different avenues of learning, you are more likely to satisfy the learning needs of each member of your club.

There are many ways to use sound effectively in your program or presentation. Usually, the presenter will serve as the narrator for his program. Like a speech, the narration should be well practiced and fit the tone of the presentation. Most violet club programs have an informal tone much like a discussion group. Like a computer, the spoken material should be "user friendly" — not too fast or slow and not too loud or soft. Audience questions should be used effectively. In large groups, you may need to repeat the question so every one can hear it before you start to answer. These tips should help you use sound more effectively.

There are many ways to use sight effectively in your presentation. Visual aids can add color and life to a presentation. The visuals should be simple, but imaginative. The audience should be able to see and interpret your visuals without having to strain their eyes. Visuals should convey information without creating questions — a visual that is difficult to understand will make your audience restless and frustrated. I am a firm believer in handouts. A good handout minimizes note taking, so the audience can enjoy the program without worrying about jotting down notes on everything you are saying or showing. Because most people remember more of what they have seen rather than heard, effective use of sight is a very important part of a program.

There are many ways to use touch effectively in your program. The most common way is to create a workshop program. Design programs are well-suited to the workshop format — I have seen programs where the speaker provided all of the necessary materials for the audience (working in pairs) to create their own small arrangements while following the speakers step-by-step guidance. Another way to use touch is known as the shared prop. Initially used as a visual aid, a shared prop is then passed around (from hand to hand) to give the audience a closer look. A useful variation of the shared prop is the community prop. In preparation for the program or meeting, the club members are asked to bring specific items that will be used during the program. This can be a particularly useful way to promote attendance and participation. All three of these techniques should appeal to people who learn best through touch.

The most effective ways of sharing information use more than just one avenue of learning. Even though most of us remember more of what we see rather than what we hear, sound is usually over-used in most programs. Likewise, most programs also seem to ignore the touch oriented learners. Although there are many others, my favorite combination technique is the pop quiz. Containing multiple choice questions related to the program, this quiz is handed out prior to the program. Using sight and touch, the audience is allowed to complete the quiz. After the program, I go over the answers to the test. Using sight, sound, and touch, the audience is allowed to grade their own papers to see how they did. I never collect the quizzes, so the audience also has a personalized handout to take home with them. Similarly, using a combination of these avenues of learning will maximize the effectiveness of your program.

How are your plants doing?

by Iris Keating, Claremont, CA

Our African violets suffer when we're too busy to give them the care and attention they need. As soon as I can find the time, my plants are going to be broken down, repotted, and started over. I will select ten violets that are the hardiest - invariably my favorites - and show the most promise, to repot first as future show entries. What do I look for?

Does the foliage shape well? Petioles (leaf stems) should grow straight with little or no coaxing, and be strong enough to prevent drooping. The outer leaves should form a perfect circle with every row above them overlapping to form an even pattern with no gaps or soil showing through.

Floriferousness - how well does the plant bloom? It should have numerous bloom stalks (pedicels) per cluster, not just 2 or 3 per peduncle (cluster stalk supporting the pedicels).

Strong peduncles - are blossoms supported by sturdy peduncles that stand proudly in the center above the crown, or do they sag and lie down on the foliage?

Is the color in both the blossoms and foliage bright and clear, remaining stable, or is it unpredictable and unreliable.

With miniature and semiminiature varieties, do they easily stay within size limits (not over 6″ diameter for minis or 8″ for semis), or do you have to virtually bonsai them to maintain the correct size?

If the violets don't have necks that are too long (most of mine do!), I strip off all but 2 or 3 rows of leaves and all blossoms and buds, removing 1/3 to 1/2 of each rootball. The plants will be repotted into shallow containers that are about 1/3 the foliage diameters, taking care to get the plants well centered.

If necks are too long, crowns will be severed with a sharp knife, leaving 1″ stems. The brown outer crust on the stems will be **gently** removed with my thumb nail or a sucker plucker. Otherwise, the stems will not reroot.

After removing crowns, I prefer to immerse them in a mild soapsuds solution, swishing them around to remove all soil and dust from the leaves. They are rinsed thoroughly in tepid water at the sink and soaked in a solution of 10 drops Superthrive per gallon of lukewarm water for 15 minutes to revive and give them a boost.

Crowns are then turned upside down on the counter to dry and "harden off" the stem for an hour before I pot them in a mixture of half planter mix (equal parts of Perlite, vermiculite, and horticultural charcoal) and half regular potting mix formula (8 parts Uni-Gro regular potting mix, 5 parts #2 Perlite, 4 parts vermiculite, and 1 part charcoal).

Newly repotted plants are kept in darkness or subdued light for 24-28 hours in covered sweater boxes or sealed plastic bags, creating a terrarium environment that allows the plants to rest. They are gradually moved back into their usual positions under the lights.

Potted crowns are placed in clear, covered plastic boxes or in individual plastic bags that are inflated by blowing into them with a straw (thereby adding CO_2) and sealed with a twistie. They are placed in subdued light for a week or so and gradually moved to good indirect light. They are usually rooted in 4 weeks.

Leaf support rings will be placed on all the plants as soon as possible, allowing for easier training and positioning of leaves. I prefer to use rings made from new or washed styrofoam meat trays for minis and semis, cutting vents in the styrofoam circles with an Exacto or sharp knife to allow air circulation.

My ten "favorites" will be given choice locations on the shelves and given ample growing room. They will be given TLC **before** my other plants and turned every day or so for even growth.

CARDINAL RULE: Remove any leaf that is smaller than the one above as soon as it is apparent. Check each week to be sure you do not have immature leaves or suckers on your plants.

Reprinted from "The Violeteer" publication of the Pamona Valley AVS, CA

Milky Way Trail

Best Semiminiature

Trailer

Exhibited by: **Alice Grundy**

Hybridizer: **Julia Stahl**

Pressing AV Blossoms

by Sharon E. Holtzman

For many years I have enjoyed pressing flowers from my outdoor garden for different projects. One day while grooming my violets, disbudding for show, I thought it was such a waste to throw all of these beautiful blooms into the trash. I decided to press them as I had done with my garden blooms.

As with all flowers, some lend themselves to pressing better than others. Violet blooms do hold a lot of water, and because of this, require special treatment if they are to be pressed successfully. I was very disappointed in the first batch that I tried to press by simply placing the blooms between sheets of blotter paper...most turned into a brown mushy mess and lost all color. Since that time, I have played around until I found a way to preserve some beautiful blooms. Following, are a few tips that I hope will help you successfully preserve your African violet flowers.

1. Single and semi-double blooms press better than doubles.
2. Place blooms in Silica Gel (available in most craft stores) for 2-3 days. When you remove the dried blooms from the gel, brush them with a small fan brush to remove the remaining Silica dust.
3. The anthers are cut away from the blooms and placed beside them between sheets of blotter paper in a press. Blooms remain in the press for about two weeks. If you don't have a regular flower press you can slip the blotter paper into a telephone book and weigh it down with a couple of bricks.
4. When it comes time for using your blooms for greeting cards, bookmarks, etc., reattach the anthers to your blooms with a dot of thick craft glue.

Remember, the dried African violet blooms WILL reabsorb moisture from the air, so if you are making greeting cards your design must be covered with clear Contact paper. If you are using your blooms for an arrangement, you should do something under glass...a bell jar is nice.

Some of my favorite varieties to use are: Ness' Coral Sunset, Delta, Muffy, Ramblin' Prince, Pat Champagne, Rob's Hokie Pokie, and Harbor Blue. Two of my favorite bi-colors are Favorite Child and Apache Face.

Foliage that presses well to use with your African violets are: leaves of miniature roses, Japanese Painted Fern, Wormwood, Dutchman's Breeches, Italian Parsley, Astilbe, and Nigella.

With the thousands of varieties of African violet blooms to choose from and a wealth of foliage material available right outside your front door (many roadside weeds and grasses are great), the possibilities for creating lovely designs are endless. Give it a try!

Reprinted with permission from "The Violet Connection" publication of the Ohio State AVS

Packaged Potting Soils... Can We Trust Them?

by Don Thornburg
Grass Valley, CA

Many years ago, prior to my knowing there was any such thing as The African Violet Society of America, Inc. or any local affiliate clubs, and feeling that perhaps I was the only "nut" in existence, I recall writing a letter to a very well known producer of African Violet potting soil, complaining to them that I felt their claims, printed as a part of their "directions for use", was very misleading and that I could not agree with them. Their reply was quite typical, somewhat like what one would expect from a present day politician, explaining how their extensive research over many years had brought them to their conclusions. Their reply did not convince me, however, and I continued to shop around for suitable potting soil mixes, finding none until I discovered a local AVSA affiliate, which I promptly joined. It was then that I discovered and started using an excellent soil mix obtained from an advertiser in our AVSA magazine. I'm still convinced that this is the best soil mix and I continue to use it.

I lived many years in the San Francisco Bay area until I moved a couple years ago. Having exhausted my supply of potting soil just prior to my move, and being in great need of repotting my African violet collection, I went to a local garden center and bought a bag of African violet potting soil, the directions for use on the bag claiming that "nothing needs to be added". Of course I knew that statement was erroneous, but having been recently told by a friend that she mixed her own potting soil, starting with Sunshing (fissons) Canadian Peat, mixing in the desired amounts of perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, etc. and that this mixture had proven very satisfactory for her, I felt that perhaps I could also start with a pre-packaged African violet soil, add some perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, etc. and create my own good mixture. I attempted then to do this very thing, launching into a repotting frenzy until I had repotted my entire collection of about one hundred plants. Alas, in about three weeks I began to notice halos on the leaves, big yellow spots, many mottled leaves, and brown spots and burned leaves, etc. My plans for having plants to enter in the upcoming affiliate show were dashed. But, what to do next was the big question.

Immediately, I sent off to Texas for a big bag of my favorite potting soil, and when it arrived I went into another repotting frenzy, until I had done everything possible to rejuvenate and save the damaged plants, thus saving my collection. But, as all African violet growers know, I was, at that point, many months, even a year, away from having a show plant!

Now, I should have known better than to use the potting soil that I purchased locally, but I apparently suffered a temporary loss of memory. Let me share with you now some things I should have already known about, and have since learned even more about, products such as pre-packaged potting soils.

I few years ago I was searching for certain horticultural products, and my search took me to a couple of large producers of top soils and other related garden products. At the first of these companies, I observed in their huge warehouse and outside in their truck and rail loading facilities, tremendous quantities of already packaged potting soils, perlite, vermiculite, etc. strapped on pallets, awaiting shipment to their customers. These bags, of many sizes, bore the trade names of many well known products that we find widespread in every community. It was apparent that while these bagged products bore the brand names of many diverse retail companies, they had all been filled with the very same product, coming from the exact same source! I also observed many pallets loaded with empty bags from a variety of retail companies, bearing their various brand names, all waiting to be filled with the very same product. I found the same situation at the second East Bay establishment I visited, but their operation was on a smaller scale.

Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with the manager of the garden center where I had purchased the bag of potting soil that resulted in my very sad experience. I explained to him what my experience had been, and while he seemed sympathetic, he said that they buy their potting soils and other products from various sources; their decision to place an order being based on the bottom line. This means, that they get their potting soils and related garden

products from whoever gives them the best price and best delivery dates, etc. I really should have known that this was a widely accepted and normal practice in many industries, for example the canned goods industry. Having once been employed by this industry, I was well aware that the various major companies furnish their labels to their competitors, who then fill their orders for them when they are unable to do so on a timely basis. So, the label really is meaningless; in potting soils, canned goods, and gas stations as well.

Another point should be made at this time. Following my bad experience with the potting soil, I became suspicious that fertilizers, water holding particles, and perhaps other such ingredients had been added into the potting soil. There are many soils on the market nowadays which have been processed to include these additives. With over watering being a common problem, especially with the inexperienced grower, my only comment is: BEWARE. Who wants them? I will do my own fertilizing and watering, if you please.

So the conclusion to be drawn is: Be very careful what you buy as a ready-to-use, nothing-needs-to-be-added, potting soil mix. There are however some very good and reliable organizations who provide us with excellent, top quality potting soils. Not all of them deserve to be suspect or placed under such close scrutiny.

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Ruth Warren • 1534 Robeson • Fall River, MA 02720

CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH JANUARY 1, 1996

Milwaukee AVS	$10.00
M. Elizabeth Leary	20.00
Town & Country AVS of Painesville	25.00
Georgiana Feyre Aboko Cole	12.00
Baltimore AVS	25.00
Barrington Bloomers	10.00
Ohio State AVS	50.00
New Jersey Council of AV Judges (Memory of Hilda Vander Meer and Flora Semen)	50.00
Unpredictables AVS	10.00
San Marcos AVS	25.00
First Nighter AVS (Memory of Mrs. W. Carpenter)	15.00
Anne Stewart	20.00
First Nighter AVS (Memory of Gladys Day)	15.00
Central Jersey AVS	15.00
Atchafalaya AVS	15.00
Lau Hin Cheung	22.50
Flo Howell	2.00
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Bergen County AVS (Lieu of program fee by Jan Murasko)	20.00
Moonlight AVS	10.00
Melanney Swartz	25.00
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AVS of Staten Island	10.00
Maureen Klansek	50.00
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Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs	10.00
Union County AVS (Lieu of speaker fee for D. Tooker)	25.00
Susuma Shizekawa	9.50
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Irene Britton	10.00
Evening Bloomers	15.00
Bellflower AVS (Lieu of fee Leonard Re)	20.00
Bellflower AVS (Slides of Ralph Breden)	10.00
Bakersfield AVS	25.00
AVS of Morris County	25.00
AVS of Lower Bucks County (In lieu of speaker fee for Janet Riemer)	25.00
First Austin AVS (Honorarium for Dr. Charles Cole)	25.00

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund Total Contributions $99,338.76

WARNING! Raising African Violets Could Be Contagious!

by Dora Hubble
Biggs, CA

If they aren't contagious, at the very least, they will give you an itch you will have a hard time scratching. Perhaps they could be compared to raising children. What joy! What problems! What head/heart aches, but how rewarding!

I have been raising African violets for several years. (I once thought they were an old lady's plant. I'm 71...do I qualify?) I know that that is not a fair assumption. My granddaughter is raising the Mickey Mouse I gave her, and I have given, or sold, many plants to young people.

I have received a lot of good advice from the African Violet magazine as well as from my friend Jean Hatfield of Violet Collectables in Lincoln, CA.

Once, my plants would reach a good size, then the outside leaves would get limp and the whole plant looked terrible. I still cringe when I remember that my Purrfect Love was about ten inches across when it developed the mystery disease.

I called Jean and she asked me what my potting mix consisted of. I told her I used 16 dry quarts of Peat Moss, 10 quarts vermiculite, and 10 quarts of perlite. Then, I throw in a handful of Diatomaceous Earth.

Jean's club had tested DE and found that the kind used for pool care was nearly all lime and would burn the roots. Guess what kind I had? I could take hold of a leaf of my Blue Puff plant and turn the whole plant half way around! I should have gotten a clue from the leaves, too. When the leaves were limp, I could cut some of them off, stick in water or pot them up, and they would stiffen right up for me.

So, I repotted every plant. To those heavily rooted, I showed no mercy, and whacked off the bottom half of the root ball. I then tickled the rest of the dirt until it fell off. I repotted them sans the DE, and now the plants look great, Blue Puff is completely recovered and blooming. Blueberry Buckle and Happy Cricket have blossoms at least 2 1/2" across. Optimara Harlequin has too many blossoms to count and Spunky Trail and Tiny Wood Trail are full of blooms and my sinningias are in great shape.

I have had a few other mishaps with my plants. Once I planted several minis in an old wine jug with an opening of about one inch. At first, they did well, but eventually it was impossible to groom them. I asked Friend Husband to cut the top third of the jug off. He did, but not with a glass cutter. He used the wheel he uses to cut rocks, and he has to use oil on it. My plants and soil smelled like that oil, which smells like sheep dip! I removed them and shook off all the dirt. They still smelled. Then, I swished the roots around in warm water containing a little dish soap. Still not clean, so I swished the tops in a new solution. I lost one, but the rest survived. African violets are tougher than we give them credit for. And it's a good thing they are.

I have a three tiered plant that my husband built for me. The bottom two tiers are lighted, and it stands in the north end of our small dinette, which has both east and west light. I know that we're not supposed to let the leaves touch, but my plants are doing so well that not only do the leaves touch, but some of them are holding hands! So, now I am only keeping the plants that I really like.

I have taken blooming plants to church potluck dinners to be used as table decorations. Whenever I see an organization that I would like to support having a yard sale, I like to donate a box of blooming plants.

My hobby is really a blessing. I've sold plants, not so much because I wanted to get ahead, I was just trying to keep from getting so far behind. Lots of fun...

That's Not a Weed, It's a **Nautilocalyx pemphidius!!**

by John Gonzales
Pasadena, TX

Can you believe that someone would call my plant a weed? I should have thrown them out of the house! True, it grows everywhere indoors and out, including dirt, African violet soil, gravel, moss, pine bark, etc., but a weed...never!

I acquired my Nautilocalyx pemphidius about four or five years ago at a plant sale in Austin, TX. Someone said that it was a rare plant from the Smithsonian Institute. All I was interested in was the pebble-like texture and the olive green foliage. So home we went to my already growing collection, but all the while I was wondering how to multiply, grow, and show this new addition to my home.

Little did I know that this plant would let me in on just what to do. I have grown this plant several different ways, in a pot with a wick and in a terrarium, but two ways to grow it that really let the plant show off are in sphagnum moss or on pebbles in a bubble bowl or fish tank. The plant always seems to have a beautiful dark green color with very shiny foliage and is always in bloom.

When using moss, I soak it over night to really let the water take hold. I then take a clean bubble bowl and layer the moss in the bottom. I usually take tip cuttings of the plant and wrap moss around the stem, then place it in the center of the bowl. After planting, I mist with fertilizer water and place one or two fish sticks in the bowl. Then all you do is stand back and watch it grow.

The first time I showed it, the plant was fairly young. The comments were less than complimentary..."What's wrong with this plant?", "I think this one is dead", and my favorite, "He says it's rare. Thank God!"

But, by the second show the comments changed. Now they were saying, "Boy, I have to get one of those", "Do you have any babies yet?", "Ask his Mom, she'll give you a leaf." That last statement had more truth than anyone knew. By the end of the show, my poor plant looked more like a bonsai than a gesneriad, but I was still proud after winning second best gesneriad in the show.

Then came a sad day in my home, when my N. pemphidius was overcome with mealybugs. Hundreds of them! Where did these little monsters come from? After all, my plant was in an enclosed container, supposedly protected from the world's evil critters. Well, the plant eventually died, but thanks to my Mom, nearly everyone in Houston had babies from the leaves she had handed out. Now, my original plant's babies are keeping me happy, just like the first one did.

Reprinted with permission from the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter

MIZZ KITTY'S BLUES

By Kitty Hedgepeth
Richmond, VA

Violet leaf in a Solo cup
I broke you off - I pot you up.
So hard to throw a leaf away...
The plants so faithful...
The blooms so gay...
That every time that I repot...
I cannot toss the leaf I've got.

And so, ev'ree leaf I take...
To trim, to pot, to label and date,
Ten dozen leaves I propagate
Now, I have more baby plants
Than a hive has bees
Or a hill has ants.
My friends avoid me when I call...
Their sills are full of plantlets all.

For ev'ree leaf I put down,
From simple Holtkamp to Burns profound,
Put forth plantlets...
Saintpaulia abound!

Keeping Records

by Carolee Carter
Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

How many of you keep records about the violets you own? Haven't thought about it yet? Or, have you thought about it, and said "Forget it, it's too much trouble"?

Well, I started to compile a list several times over the past year and just discarded the procedure after a few days. After all, if you work outside the home as well as take care of a family, you find precious little time left in your day. Whatever time is left you probably spend just watering and grooming your collection. It wasn't until I recently read an article from an older AVSA magazine about record-keeping that I realized how invaluable it would be to me. Ponder these questions:

Have you ever tried to remember if a particular plant that now has a problem was the very same one that gave you problems a year ago? Or, maybe a pest has appeared in a plant in your collection and you just can't remember the Miracle Cure that worked on a similar plant. Wasn't this the plant that you just repotted in that new soil mix that contained a few extra ingredients? Does a leaf from this plant root quicker than another? Do some plants in your collection respond to a lower intensity of light or perhaps a lesser number of hours under my lights?

Just before a club meeting do you scan your collection trying to remember which one you were going to bring to the raffle table? Are you more successful growing varieties from one hybridizer over others?

If you you plan to show plants (and I certainly hope so), do you know how a certain plant in your collection will respond to your "Growing to Show" method? How long does it take for this violet to fully bloom after disbudding? How long does it take for flowers to open and once open, how long do they last? Did the time of year make a difference?

Reading every book written about violets will help answer some of these questions, but you must make a few of your own decisions because their growing conditions don't exactly match yours. That's why I'm convinced that the best info is that which you develop and keep yourself.

I can just hear some of you rolling your eyes heavenward at this suggestion, especially if you have a large collection. Perhaps those of you who have been growing violets for a number of years already have your own system, and that's just fine. I've been consciously growing for about a year-and-a-half now, so it's about time for me to get to know these violets a little better and discover what makes some succeed and some fail.

I first thought 3 x 5 cards would be the best system for me, but found there just wasn't enough room. The AVSA article I mentioned earlier was accompanied by a sample record page that I found fascinating. Not only did it contain areas I would have normally expected, it also required information that, while taking a bit of time to fill out initially, would save me time if I wanted to enter that plant in a show.

I studied that example and decided to take it a few steps further. The result of my effort is below. I'm sure in time it will evolve even further, as other items become important.

If you assign a number to each violet, you'll know exactly how many violets you have in your collection at any given time. If you give a plant away or one dies, reuse the number. And, don't throw away that page of information. File it away alphabetically in a separate section of your binder for future reference. For quick location, make an alphabetical table of contents containing the violet's assigned number.

After the initial effort of filling out a page for each variety you have, updating time will be minimal. I think you'll be amazed at the amount of information you will be able to use as you continue changing the varieties in your collection.

Look over this page and revise it to fit your special needs. Whatever you do, just keep some kind of record. Happy cataloguing!

VIOLET INVENTORY SHEET

#_____
PLANT NAME: _____
HYBRIDIZER: _____
AVSA Registration #: _____
Source of Information: _____ Page #: _____
Purchased/Obtained From: _____
Date Acquired: _____
DESCRIPTION:
Size: Large ___ Standard ___ Semi-Mini ___ Trailer ___ Mini ___
Blossom Type: Double ___ Semi-double ___ Single ___ Pansy ___
Bell ___ Fringed ___
Color Marking: ___Edge ___ White Edge ___ Two-toned ___
Multicolor ___ Fantasy ___ Chimera ___ Bell ___
Color: Dark ___ Light ___
White ___ Pink ___ Coral ___ Fuchsia ___ Red ___ Green ___
Blue ___ Purple ___ Orchid ___
Foliage: Variegated ___ Plain/tailored ___ Pointed ___ Quilted ___
Ruffled ___ Wavy ___ Girl ___ Serrated ___
SIZE WHEN ACQUIRED: Leaf ___ Sucker ___ Starter Plant ___
Full-Sized Plant ___
GENERAL GROWING COMMENTS:
Condition when acquired:

Ease of Propagation:

First Bloom Stalk: Blooming True ___ Not True ___
Date First Bud Appears: Date in Full Bloom:

SHOW COMMENTS:
Date Disbudded and Groomed for Show:
Date Plant Comes Into Show Condition:

AWARDS WON:
Date Event Award Won Date Event Award Won

Problems in regrowing after a show:

DISEASES/PROBLEMS:
Date Disease/Problems Remedy Used

Other Problems Noticed in Growing this Plant:

POTTING RECORD:
Date Mix Date Mix Date Mix

LEFT COLLECTION: Date _____
Reason: Tossed ___ Reason _____
Donated to Raffle ___ Gift ___ (To:)
Sold ___ (To:)

Coming Events

MARCH 1, 2, & 3 - FLORIDA
Gulf AVC Show/Sale
Ft. Myers - Lec Co. Garden Center Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave, Ft. Myers, FL
Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542-9193

MARCH 2 - NEW YORK
New York Botanical Gardens offers a course in "Flowering Plants For Indoors" at the New York Institute of Tech.
March 2 - 10am - 2 :30pm
Info: (718) 817 - 8747

MARCH 2 & 3 - ALABAMA
Capital City AVS of Montgomery Clinic & Plant Sale
Southern Homes and Gardens, Hwy. 231 N. (Wetumpka Hwy.)
March 2 - 2pm - 5pm, March 3 - 1pm - 5pm
Info: Julia Humber (334) 262 - 6756,
Barbara Strock (334) 567 - 6811

MARCH 8 - 17 - NEW YORK
1996 New York Flower Show
NY Coliseum at Broadway & 59th St.
Info: (914) 421-3299

MARCH 8 & 9 - LOUISIANA
Top Choice AVC Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave.,
Shreveport, LA
March 8 - 2pm - 7pm, March 9 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

MARCH 9 - 10 - CALIFORNIA
South Coast AVS Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verde Peninsula, CA
March 9 - 11am - 5pm,
March 10 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373 - 5697

MARCH 9 & 10 - LOUISIANA
Atchafalaya AVS 21st AV Show/Sale
Morgan City Municipal Auditorium on Myrtle St.
March 9 - 2pm - 5pm,
March 10 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Donnie Clement (504) 384 - 6852

MARCH 14 - 16 - TEXAS
First AVS of Dallas Show/Sale
Richardson Square Mall, Beltline and Plano Rd.
Richardson, TX
Sale: March 14 - 16 10am - 9pm
Show: March 15 & 16 - 10am - 9pm
Info: (214) 278 - 0389

MARCH 15 & 16 - CALIFORNIA
Pomona Valley AVS Annual Show/Sale
Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave., La Verne, CA
March 15 - 1pm - 6pm,
March 16 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Adelaide Kory (909) 945 - 2600
Marna Music (909) 593 - 7618

MARCH 15 & 16 - OREGON
Portland AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Tabor Heights Methodist Church Annex
6161 SE Stark St., Portland, OR
March 15 - 1pm - 5pm
March 16 - 10am - 5pm
Info: (503) 771 - 5762

MARCH 16 & 17 - ARKANSAS
Greenthumb AVS of Fayetteville Show/Sale
Northwest Arkansas Mall
Open Mall Hours
Info: Ruby Pope (501) 442 - 2201

MARCH 16 & 17 - COLORADO
Rocky Mountain AVC 33rd Annual Spring Show/Sale
Denver Botanical Gardens, John Mitchell Hall
1005 York St., Denver, CO
Info: Karen Anderson (303) 828 - 3762

MARCH 16 & 17 - CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County AVS Show/Sale
Good Nite Inn, 485 Veterans Blvd., Exit 101 at Whipple Ave. to Veterans Blvd.
March 16 - 2pm - 5pm,
March 17 - 9am - 3pm
Info: (415) 593 - 2998

MARCH 16 & 17 - TEXAS
Moonlight AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center,
University Dr., Ft. Worth, TX
Both Days: 1pm - 4pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

MARCH 16 - 17 - CALIFORNIA
San Joaquin AVS Annual Show/Sale
Sherwood Mall, 5308 Pacific Ave.,
Stockton, CA
March 16 - 10am - 6:30pm
March 17 - 11am - 5pm
Info: (209) 745 - 9602

MARCH 16 & 17 - KANSAS
Wichita Study Club Annual Show/Sale
Botanica, The Wichita Gardens,
701 Amidon, Wichita, KS
March 16 - noon - 4pm
March 17 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Beth Reisman (316) 733 - 4777

MARCH 16 & 17 - NEW YORK
Sweet Water AVS 21st Annual Plant Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Dept. Hall
Montauk Hwy. & Atlantic Ave., West Sayville, NY
March 16 - 2 - 5pm, March 17 - 12 - 5pm
Info: Carolyn Klein (212) 349 - 5350

MARCH 20 - CALIFORNIA
Town & Country AVS Open House/Display/Sale
Trinity Episcopal Great Hall, 419 S. Fourth St., corner of Fourth and Ferne,
Redlands, CA
10am - 5pm
Info: Aneita Richardson (909) 794 - 2771

MARCH 20 - 23 - TENNESSEE
Dixie AVS 40th Annual Convention, Show/Sale
Hosted by the Nashville AVC
Ramada Inn South, I-65 South at Harding Place, Exit 78, Nashville, TN
Show Hours: Fri: 3pm - 5pm,
Sat. 10am - 4pm
Info: Porter Temple (615) 646 - 1922
Peggy Adamson (615) 228 - 7762

MARCH 21, 22 & 23 - TEXAS
Alpha AVS of Dallas, Show/Sale
Olla Podrida Mall, 12215 Coit Rd.,
Dallas TX
Sale: March 21 - 10am - 9pm
March 22 & 23 - 10am - 6pm
Show: March 22 - 1pm - 6pm
March 23 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (214) 278 - 0389

MARCH 22 - 24 - MINNESOTA
Lakes Area AV Growers Spring Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall, N. Snelling Ave. at County Rd. B, just south of Hwy. 36
March 22 - 10am - 9pm, March 23 - 10am - 6pm, March 24 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Barb Wohlferd (612) 426 - 4868

MARCH 22 & 23 - TEXAS
First AVS of Denton Show/Sale
Erwin Hall, 1st Presbyterian Church, 1114 W. University Dr., Denton, TX
March 22 - 1:30 - 5pm, Workshop: 3pm
March 23 - 10am - 4pm, Workshop: 11am

MARCH 22 & 23 - NEW JERSEY
Central Jersey AVS 17th Annual Judged Show
1st Baptist Church, 232 Main St.,
Matawan, NJ
March 22 - 3pm - 9pm
March 23 - 9:30 - 4pm
Info: Jan Murasko (908) 821 - 8641
David Tooker (908) 583 - 9568

MARCH 23 - TEXAS
Moonlight AVS Annual Non-Judged AV Exhibit/Sale
Ft. Worth Botanical Garden Center,
University Dr., Ft. Worth, TX.
Club members will be on hand to provide demonstrations of violet care.
9am - 12pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

MARCH 23 - ARIZONA
Desert Sun AVS Show/Sale
Christown Mall, 19th Ave., and Bethany Home Rd., Phoenix, AZ
10am - 4pm
Seminar - 11am
Info: Kathe Luther (602) 840 - 0698

MARCH 23 - CONNECTICUT
Windsor AVS Judged Show
Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad St.,
Windsor, CT
10am - 3pm
Info: Vivian Hiltz (860) 666-3573

MARCH 23 & 24 - MICHIGAN
Michigan State AVS Spring Display/ Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI
March 23 - 10am - 4:30pm
March 24 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

MARCH 23 & 24 - MICHIGAN
Border Cities AVC 44th Annual AV Display/Sale
St. James Church, 241 Pearson St.,
Ferndale, MI
Both Days: noon - 5pm
Info: Adaline Nathan (810) 474 - 0075
Ellen Platz (313) 278-5030

MARCH 29, 30 & 31 - TEXAS
First Nighter AVS Spring Show
Big Town Mall, US Hwy. 80 @ Big Town Blvd., Mesquite, TX
Info: Mildred Green (214) 942 - 1226

MARCH 29, 30 & 31 - MINNESOTA
Minnesota AVS Show/Sale
Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave., just south of I 694, Maplewood, MN
March 29 - 10am - 9pm
March 30 - 10am - 6pm
March 31 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Marie Nater (612) 389 - 4326

MARCH 29 & 30 - NEW JERSEY
Union County Chapter 42nd Show/Sale
All Saints Episcopal Church
559 Park St., Scotch Plains, NJ
March 29 - 6pm - 9pm
March 30 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jan Riemer (609) 737 - 1699
Marion Mossberg (908) 381 - 9443

MARCH 29 & 30 - TEXAS
1st AVS of San Antonio Show/Sale
North Star Mall, San Antonio, TX
Both Days: 10am - 6pm
Info: (210) 824 - 2921

MARCH 29 & 30 - VIRGINIA
Richmond AVS Annual Show/Sale
Virginia Center Commons Mall, Rt. 1 North and I 295
March 29 - 2pm - 9pm
March 30 - 10am - 8pm
Info: Bill Schmidt (804) 266 - 6157

MARCH 29 & 30 - TENNESSEE
Memphis AVS Spring Show/Sale
Memphis Botanic Gardens,
750 Cherry Rd., Memphis
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Brenda Brasfield (601) 895-2002

MARCH 29 & 30 - NEBRASKA
Lincoln AVS 26th Annual Spring Show & Sale
East Park Plaza, 66th & O Streets,
Lincoln, NE
March 29 - 10am - 9pm
March 30 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Ann Sweeney (402) 476 - 1316

MARCH 30 & 31 - INDIANA
Indiana State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Holiday Inn SE, Route I 465 South at Emerson, Beech Grove Exit
March 30: Sale - 9am - 12:30pm & 2pm - 6pm
Show - 3pm - 7pm
March 31: Sale - 11am - 4pm
Show - 11am - 4pm
Info: Dorothy Rose (317) 547-3216

MARCH 30 - MAINE
Moby Dick AVC Annual Show & Sale
First Baptist Church, corner of N. Main and Pine Streets in Fall River, MA
9am - 4pm
Info: Susan Gimblet (401) 624 - 8066

MARCH 29 & 30 - ALABAMA
Early Bird Violet Club of Birmingham Show/Sale
Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
Birmingham, Alabama
March 29 - 2pm - 4pm
March 30 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Ramona Hodges (205) 833 - 1309
Gwen Johnson (205) 991 - 5335

MARCH 30 & 31 - ILLINOIS
Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake Cook Rd.,
Glencoe, IL
Plant Registration: Fri. 7-9pm,
Sat., 7:30 - 8:45am
Open to Public, March 30 - 12 - 4pm,
March 31 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Maybloom (708) 882 - 4652

MARCH 30 & 31 - LOUISIANA
Jefferson AV Association Annual Show/Sale
Lakeside Shopping Center, Veterans Blvd.
Entrance, Metairie, LA

MARCH 30 & 31 - NEW YORK
AVS of Western NY Annual Judged Public Show/Sale
Walden Galleria Mall
Walden Ave., Buffalo, NY
March 30 - 10am - 9:30pm
March 31 - Noon - 6:00pm
Info: Fred Packer (716) 833 - 4504

APRIL - 4, 5,& 6 - FLORIDA
Heart of Jacksonville AVS Show/Sale
Easter Weekend, The Avenues Mall, 10300 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville, FL
Info: (904) 221-0629 or (904) 757- 5708

APRIL 5 & 6 - NORTH CAROLINA
Green Thumb AVS Spring Show/Sale
Tarrytown Mall, 301 & Bus. 64, Rocky Mount, NC
April 5 - 10am - 8pm, April 6 - 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

APRIL 5 & 6 - WISCONSIN
AV Fanciers Sale/Display
Beloit Mall, Rt. 51 North, Beloit, WI
April 5 - 10am - 7pm, April 6 - 10am - 2pm
Florise M. Hogan (815) 397 - 2000

APRIL 12 & 13 - SOUTH CAROLINA
First AVS of Spartanburg Display/Sale
Hillcrest Mall, 1901 E. Main St.,
Spartanburg, SC
April 12 - 10am - 8pm
April 13 - 10am 'til sold out
Info: Nina Williams (864) 574 - 0945

APRIL 12, 13 & 14 - MISSOURI
The Unpredictables AVS 13th Annual Show/Sale
Independence Center Mall, I 70 & Hwy. 291, Independence, MO
INfo: Sylvia Prince (913) 894 - 0849

APRIL 12, 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA
Pebble Beach, CA National Garden Show
Presented by Garden Design Magazine and The Lodge at Pebble Beach,
Pebble Beach, CA
Info: Allyson Renner (310) 858 - 5750

APRIL 13 - NEW JERSEY
AVC of Burlington County 7th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Burlington Center Mall, Rt. 541, Burlington, NJ
Sales: 10am - 8:30pm
Show: Noon - 8:30pm
Info: (609) 877-8696

APRIL 13 - MISSOURI
Heart of Missouri AVS 15th Annual Show/Sale
Columbia Senior Center, Bus. Loop 70,
Columbia, MO
Info: 696 - 2652

APRIL 13 & 14 - NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque AVC Annual Show/Sale
Albuquerque Garden Center,
10120 Lomas N.E., Albuquerque, NM
April 13 - 2 - 6pm, April 14 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384 - 5026

APRIL 13 & 14 - NEW YORK
Long Island AVS 42nd Annual Show
Rockville Recreation & Community Center,
111 Oceanside Rd.,
Rockville Centre, NY
April 13 - 2 - 5pm, April 14 - 12 - 5pm

APRIL 13 & 14 - TEXAS
Four Seasons AVC Easter Sale
First Bank and Trust, 4000 Twin City Hwy.,
Groves, TX
April 13 - 9am - 3pm, April 14 - 9am - 5:30pm
Info: Sandra McDaniel (409) 982 - 9940

APRIL 13 & 14 - ALABAMA
Montgomery AVS 24th AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Southern Homes & Gardens, US Hwy. 23 North, Montgomery, AL
April 13 - 1 - 5pm, April 14 - 1 - 4:30pm
Info: Mary Price (334) 277 - 8676

APRIL 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA
Capital City AVS Judged Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden and Arts Center, 3300 McKinley Blvd.,
Sacramento, CA
April 13 - 2 - 6pm, April 14 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Jean Stokes (916) 421 - 7284

APRIL 13 & 14 - DELAWARE
Delaware AVS Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Christiana Mall, off I 95 in Newark, Delaware
April 13 - 1:30 - 9:30pm
April 14 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Andrea Pirone (302) 994 - 0513
Barbara Borleske (302) 239 - 1665

APRIL 18 - 20 - BERMUDA
Bermuda Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries & Parks presents the 59th Bermuda Agricultural Exhibition
Open all day, each day
Info: John Barnes, Director
P.O.Box HM 834
Hamilton HM CX, Bermuda
Phone: (809) 236 - 4201
Fax: (809) 236 - 7582

APRIL 19 - 20 - NEW JERSEY
Bergen County AVS Spring Show
Old North Church, Dumont, NJ
April 19 - 3 - 9pm, April 20 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Florence Friedman (201) 568 - 0736

APRIL 19, 20 & 21 - MINNESOTA
North Star AV Council Show/Sale
Northtown Mall, Hwy. 10 & University Ave. NE, Blaine, MN
Open Mall Hours
Info: Barb Werness (612) 754 - 3918,
Ruth Bann (612) 571- 6703

APRIL 20 & 21 - WASHINGTON
Seattle AVS 43rd Annual Show/Sale
U. of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture,
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA
12pm - 5pm, both days
Info: Ruth Grainger (206) 282 - 2748

APRIL 20 - 21 - IOWA
The Evening AVC of Des Moines Show/Sale
Botanical Center, 909 E. River Dr., Des Moines
April 20 - 10am - 5pm, April 21 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Joan Watts (515) 377 - 2656

APRIL 20 & 21 - OHIO
The AVS of Dayton 1st Annual Spring Show/Sale
Cox Arboretum Visitor's Center, 6733 Springboro Pike
(State Rt. 741) Dayton OH
1 - 4pm, both days
Info: Melanie Borders (513) 427 - 9085

APRIL 20 - 21 - CANADA
Montreal, Canada's La Societe des Saintpaulia de Montreal AVS
Show/Sale, chalet du parc Maisonneuve,
4601 E. Sherbrooke, Montreal
9am - 6pm Both Days
Info: Francine Pilon (514) 322 - 8234

APRIL 20 & 21 - NEW YORK
Copper City AV Show /Sale
Masonic Temple, 620 N. Washington St.,
Rome, NY
April 20 - 2 - 7pm, April 21 - noon - 5pm
Info: Annabelle Hart (315) 337 - 6150
Donna Rhodes (315) 866 - 7205

APRIL 24 - OHIO
AVS of Canton, Ohio Spring Show/Sale
Canton Garden Center, Stadium Park,
Canton, OH
9am - 4pm
Info: Carolyn Stroud (216) 928 - 4540

APRIL 26 - 27 - TENNESSEE
Bluff City AVC Spring Show/Sale
Oak Court Mall, Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN
10am - 9pm, Both Days
Info: Mike Ramsey (901) 744 - 6710
Marion Zoller (901) 372 - 0283

APRIL 26 - 27 - NEW YORK
AVS of Rochester Show/Sale
Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave.,
Rochester, NY
April 26 - 2 - 6pm, April 27 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Irwin Wagman (716) 381 - 6384

APRIL 26 & 27 - NEW JERSEY
AVS of North Jersey 28th Annual Spring Show
St. John's Lutheran Church, 810 Broad St.,
Clifton, NJ
April 26 - 3:30 - 8pm, April 27 - 9:30am - 3pm

APRIL 26 & 27 - PENNSYLVANIA
AVS of Springfield Show/Sale
Springfield Mall, Springfield, Delaware County, Baltimore Pike and 320. Exit 2 off 476
Info: Nancy Corse (610) 566 - 5042

APRIL 27 & 28 - NEW YORK
AVS of Greater NY, Inc., Annual Spring Show/Sale
The Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing, NY
April 27 - 1:30 - 5pm, April 28 - 11am - 5pm

APRIL 27 & 28 - PENNSYLVANIA
AVS of Lower Bucks County, 21st Annual Show/Sale
Wood River Village Community Room, Bensalem Blvd. and Humeville Rd., Bensalem, PA
April 27 - 1 - 9pm,
April 28 - 10am -2:30pm
Info: Bill Lyons (215) 946 - 3698

APRIL 27 & 28 - WISCONSIN
Oshkosh AVS AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Park Plaza Mall, Downtown Oshkosh
April 27 - 10am - 5pm
April 28 - noon - 4:30pm
Info: Cathy Heider (414) 685 - 5262

APRIL 27 & 28 - CALIFORNIA
Diablo Valley AV Growers Club Judged Show/Sale
Clayton Valley St. John's Masonic Lodge #756, 4032 Treat Blvd., Concord, CA
April 27 - 2 - 5pm, April 28 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Tom King (510) 933 - 8386

APRIL 27 - NEW YORK
Hudson Highlands AVS Display & Sale
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, corner of Ramapo Ave. and Rt. 202, Mahwah, NJ
10am - 5pm
Info: Mary Scopoli (914) 724 - 3591

APRIL 27 - CANADA
The Vancouver AVC Spring Show
Van Dusen's Garden Floral Hall, Oak St. & 38th Ave.
Vancouver, BC, Canada
1pm - 4pm
Info: Michael Ward (604) 685 - 8422

APRIL 27 & 28 - CONNECTICUT
The Naugatonic AVS Annual Spring Judged Show
Boothe Memorial Park Hall, Main St. (Putney), Stratford, CT, Exit 53S off the Merritt Parkway
April 27 - 1 - 4pm, April 28 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Don Goodwin (860) 283 - 5311

MAY 2, 3 & 4 - CANADA
Stampede City AVS of Calgary, Alberta, Canada
20th Annual Show/Sale
Northland Village Shoppes, 5111 Northland Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta
Info: Winston J. Goretsky (403) 282 - 7851
Richard Farraway (403) 246 - 5614

MAY 3 - 4 - ARKANSAS
North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale
Jacksonville Community Center, 9 Municipal Dr., Jacksonville, AR
May 4 - Show/Sale Open to the Public 9am - 5pm
Info: Glenda Dye (501) 982 - 9654

MAY 3 & 4 - WISCONSIN
Late Bloomers AVC of Monroe, WI Judged Show/Sale
Beloit Mall, Beloit, WI
May 3 - 10am - 9pm, May 4 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Shirley Streit (608) 934 - 5411

MAY 3, 4 & 5 - OHIO
The Cincinnati AVS Show/Sale
Beechmont Mall
May 3 - 1pm - 9pm, May 4 & 5 - Mall Hours
Info: (513) 271 - 5678 or (513) 384 - 4437

MAY 4 - CALIFORNIA
Burbank AVS Annual Display/Sale
Verdugo Park Lower Assembly Bldg., 3201 West Verdugo,
Burbank, CA
Hours: 9am - 4pm
Info: (818) 846 - 1241

MAY 4 & 5 - MISSOURI
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council Annual Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Gardens, 4344 Shaw, St. Louis, MO
Open to the Public, Both Days 9am - 5pm
Info: Helen Blanton (314) 441 - 3072

MAY 4 & 5 - CANADA
Lakeshore AVS of Toronto Annual Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens, 25 The West Mall, Etobicoke
May 4 - 11am - 5pm, May 5 - noon - 4pm
Info: Doris Brownlie (905) 270 - 6776

MAY 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA
Ventura County AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventure Mall at Mills Rd. and Main Street, Ventura, CA
May 4 - Sale 10am - 6pm, Show noon - 6pm
May 5 - Sale 11am - 6pm, Show 11am - 6pm

MAY 4 & 5 - VIRGINIA
Old Dominion AVS of Northern VA Annual Show/Sale
Green Spring Garden Park, Fairfax County, VA
Info: Laurene Jones (703) 560 - 6134

MAY 4 & 5 - WISCONSIN
Crosstown AVC Annual Show/Sale
East Towne Mall, Madison, WI
Mall Hours
Info: Bonnie Henell (608) 221 - 2050

MAY 4 & 5 - MISSOURI
Sho-Me AVC Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Both Days: 10am - 3pm
Info: (816) 761 - 7189

MAY 4 & 5 - NEW YORK
Paumanok AVS AVSA Judged Show/Sale
St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, Shrine Pl. and Pulaski Rd., Greenlawn, NY
May 4 - 2 - 6pm, May 5 - 1 - 5pm
Info: Tina Pigart (516) 427 - 7390

MAY 4 & 5 - NEW YORK
AVS of Syracuse, NY Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall, Clay NY
Rt. 31, west out of Syracuse
Mall Hours
Info: Richard J. Gundlach (315) 455 - 2963

MAY 4 & 5 - PENNSYLVANIA
AVS of Philadelphia 35th Show/Sale
Watertower Recreation Center
Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
May 4 - 1 - 9pm, May 5 - 12pm - 4pm
Info: Peggy DePhillippo (610) 489 - 4744

MAY 4 & 5 - CONNECTICUT
Silvermine AVS 23rd Annual Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities, 10 Woodside Ln., Westport, CT
May 4 - 1:30 - 5pm, May 5 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570
Lynn Wallach (203) 227 - 5487

MAY 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA
Tustana AVS 9th Annual Show
Westminster Mall at 405 Freeway
Bolsa Ave. and Goldenwest
May 4 - 10am - 7pm, May 5 - 11am - 6pm
Info: (714) 544 - 2349

MAY 4 & 5 - WISCONSIN
Milwaukee AVS AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Southgate Mall, 3333 So. 27th St, Milwaukee, WI
May 4 - 10am - 6pm, May 5 - noon - 5pm
Info: (414) 444 - 3905

MAY 4 & 5 - CANADA
Monctonian AVS Annual Show/Sale
MacArthur's Nursery, Moncton, NB, Canada
May 4 - 2pm, May 5 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Francine Cain (506) 855 - 1758

MAY 9, 10 & 11 - OHIO
Violets & Friends Club Annual Judged Show/Sale
Miami Valley Center Mall
May 9 - 1 - 9pm,
May 10 & 11 - 10am - 9pm
Info: (513) 492 - 6588, (513) 773 - 6603

MAY 9, 10 & 11 - CANADA
AVS of Canada 29th Annual Convention
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Info: Bob McCade, 769 Holt Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 2Y5, Canada
(613) 737 -3793

MAY 10 & 11 - LOUISIANA
Top Choice AVC Plant Sale & Clinic
Pierre Bossier Mall, Bossier City, LA
May 10 - 10am - 6pm
May 11 - 10am - 6pm, or until Sold Out
Info: (318) 929 - 7749

MAY 10 & 11 - WASHINGTON
Longview AVC Show/Sale
Longview Triangle Mall, Longview, WA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm

MAY 10 & 11 - WISCONSIN
AV Fanciers Sale/Display
Beloit Mall, Rt. 51, North Beloit, WI
May 10 - 10am - 7pm
May 11 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Florise Hogan (815) 397 - 2000

MAY 10 & 11 - OHIO
Parmatown AVC 36th Annual Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall, 7899 West Ridgewood Dr., Parma, OH
May 10 - 12:30 - 9pm, May 11 - 9am - 6pm
Sale Table Opens 9:30am, Both Days
Info: Marian Tisdale - (216) 845 - 2525

MAY 11 - NEBRASKA
Omaha AVS Spring Show
Southroads Mall, 1001 Fort Crook Rd., Bellevue, NE
10am - 5pm
Info: Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

MAY 11 & 12 - VIRGINIA
Tidewater AVS Show/Sale
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
May 11 - 2:30 - 5pm, May 12 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Pat Knight (804) 479 - 2115

MAY 11 - NORTH CAROLINA
Green Thumb AVS Mother's Day Sale
Carolina East Mall, Greenville, NC
10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

MAY 11 - CALIFORNIA
Fancy Bloomers AVS Annual Plant Sale
Coddingtown Mall, Guernville Road, Santa Rosa, CA
10am - until Sold Out
Info: Harriet Maddux (707) 523 - 1614

MAY 11 & 12 - CALIFORNIA
Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza at West Covina, Lower Level
Bullock's/Macy's Court
1200 West Covina Parkway, West Covina, CA
May 11 - 10am - 8pm,
May 12 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Pat Thornton (818) 963 - 2586

MAY 26 - CANADA
Toronto 38th Annual Show
Civic Garden Center, Edwards Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E., Don Mills, Ontario, Canada11am - 5pm
Info: (416) 491 - 9719

Have You Checked Your POT Lately?

by Joseph Schulz
Columbia, MO

Admittedly, the title for this little ditty was chosen with tongue in cheek. Perhaps it should have been, "How Do They Get From There To Here?" If you have read this far, you are probably wondering what in the world this nit-wit is writing about. It has to do with a real nemesis of the unsuspecting...and I even hate to write the name of what I consider the Devils of the African violet world - SOIL MEALY BUGS.

I consider SMBs the scourge of the AV world, because they do their work underground, so to speak, where you can't see what is happening. The adverse effects of mites and thrips are easily observed by the naked eye. Not so with SMBs. Even with my tri-focals it is sometimes hard to detect them until they are of major concern and drastic action is called for.

I have not seen the problem of SMBs addressed in many prior articles. Usually, reference to them is made in a sort of oblique manner. Possible controls, chemicals to use etc., have been advocated but without any specific treatment regime. This brief reference has usually been in articles dealing with all pests that attack our violets. Most of the time the solution is sort of a 'throw up the hands' deal with advice that you take leaf cuttings or reroot the plant(s) involved. Such drastic action is not necessary.

How can a grower tell if he has SMBs? Those devils in disguise can be detected in several ways. If your violet(s) does not appear healthy and happy, with bright blossoms and shiny foliage, that plant(s) is immediately suspect. If the crown of your plant(s) turns a sickly tannish with a fuzzy look - WATCH OUT! Sometimes SMBs cause the foliage to develop unsightly brown spots as though hot water may have been dropped on the leaves. Rusty-looking splotches can also appear on the leaf blades. Another possible indication is that the plant becomes wobbly in the pot. Something has caused the loss of part of the root system. Better check it out.

As I grow all of my standards and trailers on reservoirs, I check each one as I refill to determine that there is no spider web, whitish critter floating in the water, a positive indication of SMBs. If there are SMBs present, that plant is treated immediately. My minis and semi-minis are grown in community trays and if one plant in a tray develops symptoms of SBMs, it is a safe bet that all plants therein have them too.

My first encounter with SMBs happened several years ago. One plant that looked healthy otherwise developed that fuzzy-tannish crown. Because of my ignorance about SMBs, I suspected mites and treated for same. No new growth happened after treatment. At this time, although my plants were on reservoirs, I was not smart enough to check the water in the reservoir. I had no reason to suspect SMBs. Frustrated, I hastened that plant to a commercial grower. Their opinion was that I had used too much fertilizer. How could that be? All my plants were on the standard 1/4 tsp of AV fertilizer to a gallon of water.

Back home, I drenched the pot and used no fertilizer. The plant continued to decline. I decided to remove the plant

from the pot, wash off all the soil and repot in a new pot with fresh soil. Then I discovered the white, web-like indication of SMBs throughout the soil ball. There were also no longer any viable roots. At that stage there was nothing to do but take leaf cuttings and repot the crown.

I submit to you that perhaps many problems encountered by new converts to African violets, perhaps some others as well, are actually the effect of SMBs that are existing unsuspected in their plants.

Where do SMBs come from? I've been told that they come from outside plants - plants that have been purchased. What is their means of locomotion? How do they get from one plant to another? I am no entomologist and have no clue how they move around, nor have I found anyone with an acceptable answer. I have discovered them in a plant on the lower shelf of a four-tier plant stand, and the next one I found was on the top shelf of a four-tier stand across the room from the first. Those two plants had never been close to each other! It's a mystery!

Could there be a connection between SMBs and petiole mealy bugs? I suspect so, as I have found both in the same plant. Again, no one I have asked can tell me if a relationship exists. Fortunately, petiole mealy bugs are easily seen and can be eradicated quickly with the cotton swab and rubbing alcohol treatment.

Now...**what to do about SMBs.**

The answer is simple and was revealed to me by the owner and operator of a commercial greenhouse. Use liquid Spectracide as a soil drench Use two teaspoons of Spectracide to one gallon of lukewarm water. I use 1/2 cup of the solution to a 4 1/2" pot - more for a larger pot, less for smaller pots. Be sure that the soil in the pot is moist when you drench the plant. Repeat in five to seven days. A third time would not hurt. This treatment will not harm the plant, either foliage or blossoms if it is blooming. Let the plant dry out a bit before the second treatment and before resuming your normal manner of watering. I use fresh reservoirs when I treat a plant. I have no idea the shelf life of the Spectracide solution, hence it is wise to make a new batch, or portion, for the second treatment. A word of warning. There is a rather obnoxious smell to the Spectracide, but it will soon dissipate.

Now, after you read this, don't go rampaging through your violet collection, upending pots to see if there are SMBs present. However, if for some reason you have a plant(s) that are not doing as it should, it might pay to check it out. It takes little effort to examine the soil ball and it could pay dividends.

Alannah's African Violets

"Mail order specialists for award-winning Violets"

- *Well established starter plants and fresh cut leaves.*
- *All necessary African Violet growing supplies - from pots to fertilizers, etc.*
- *Floralight indoor light gardens and accessories.*
- *Interesting and hard to find florists supplies (frogs, wire, florists clay & foam, etc.)*

Catalogue $2.00 refundable.

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Phone (604) 442-2552 Fax (604) 442-0288

Visitors Welcome - by appointment

Guidelines for Advertisers

Commercial Membership • Non-Commercial • Classified

Diane Richardson • 9207 Ravenwood Road • Baltimore, Maryland 21237

VISA or Mastercard

AVSA now accepts VISA or Mastercard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for six consecutive ads (one full year) either by check or charge, and take 10% off the total bill. Note that most rates have been rounded off to ease bookkeeping for both the advertiser and the AVSA staff. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This new ruling is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Existing AVSA members, as well as non-members, may take advantage of this new change. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than that of our commercial membership. Unless they are already a member of AVSA, they would not receive a copy of the AVM, nor would they be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1″ ad Commercial Member	$30.00
1″ ad Non-Commercial	$33.00

One year (six issues) as non-commercial will pay an additional $18.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White Commercial Member	$345.00
Full page Black & White Non-Commercial	$379.50

One year (six issues) a non-commercial will pay an additional $207.00 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page	Commercial Member	$475.00
	Non-Commercial	$522.50
Full Page	Commercial Member	$595.00
	Non-Commercial	$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- •Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- •Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- •Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- •Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- •Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, you can't afford those big ads every month so once or twice a year will have to do?

The Classified Advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

Rates for Classified Advertising

$15.00 minimum, 15 words - $1.00 each additional word, series or groups of numbers count as a word. Checks to be made payable to AVSA. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. In order to take advantage of the 10% discount listed above, the same ad (NO CHANGES) must be run for all six (6) issues. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section:**

Jan/Feb issue	Oct. 15	July/Aug issue	Apr 15
Mar/Apr issue	Dec 15	Sept/Oct issue	June 15
May/June issue	Feb 15	Nov/Dec issue	Aug 15

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

M. Diane Richardson, Advertising Manager
9207 Ravenwood Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21237
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Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

African Violet Magazine

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16″) Two Column (6-3/4″) B/W

AVSA Commercial Member Rates			Non-Commercial Member Rates
Rate	**Per Column Inch**	**Total**	
1″	30.00	30.00	33.00
2″	25.00	50.00	55.00
3″	23.33	70.00	77.00
4″	22.50	90.00	99.00
5″ to 9-1/4″	22.40	per col. inch	
One-Fourth Page - Black & White			
1 col. x 4-1/2″ or 2 col. x 2-3/16″		95.00	104.50
One-Half Page - Black & White			
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Full Page - Black & White			
6-3/4″ x 9-1/4″		345.00	379.50
Full Page - Four Color			
6-3/4″ x 9-1/4″ Customer provides color separations		595.00	654.50
Half Page - Four Color			
1 col. x 9-1/4″ or 2 col. x 4-1/2″ Customer provides color separations		475.00	522.50

10% discount if six (6) consecutive ads are paid in full advance.

Check made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. Need not be a commercial member to advertise.

Membership - $30.00 per year - USA. Check made payable to AVSA. Membership check should be separate from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat. You can play a critical role.

Friend *(Rafiki)* of Saintpaulia - $10

Patron *(Mhifadi)* of Saintpaulia - $25

Guardian *(Mlezi)* of Saintpaulia - $50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
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MIGHTY MINIS

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(916) 421-7284

NEW FOR SPRING

New Lyons.....Dangerous, Porcelain Doll, Little Jezabell, and many others.

Robs.....Albatross, Catch Me, Cherry Soda, Green Jeans, Ooh La La and more.

Stokes.....Cupid, Donder, Vixen, Comet, Rolling Thunder, Isabella, Kinda Kute, Rigoletto, Chikita, Delta Doll and others.

Oldies Galore!!!!

Catalog $2.00

Shipping year 'round to California and warm states.

Shipping starts April 1st weather permitting.

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A carefully researched, illustrated book by and for violet growers. This revised edition deals with every phase of violet culture and problems. Clever and helpful techniques for advanced growers as well as beginners, including "Texas Style."

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NEW FOR WINTER, SPRING 1996 **- SPRING JOY - SKY VALE - RIO HONDO - SUMMER PASSION - ARCTURUS - ROSE JULIA - MARION VOGT - SILVER CLOUD - FANTASY FIESTA - ORCHID MAGIC - DARK TEMPEST - RASPBERRY PIXIE**

QUANTITY ASSORTMENT SPECIALS - Our choice of new and older varieties in 2 1/2˝ pots, bud & bloom, each variety different.

TOTAL QUANTITY PURCHASED	STANDARDS	MINIS	CHIMERAS
5 PLANTS	$2.00ea.	$1.80ea.	$3.80ea.
10 PLANTS	$1.75ea.	$1.50ea.	$3.50ea.
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20 PLANTS	$1.45ea.	$1.20ea.	$2.60ea.
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Please add $6.75 for shipping, up to 25 plants, west coast orders add 40¢ per plant extra. Assortments can be mixed and matched for quantity discounts. (eg. -on a total purchase of 25 plants, you could order 10 standards at a $1.30 each, 10 minis at $1.00 each and 5 chimeras at $2.25 each. Call for details.) *(Not applicable with other discounts or coupons.)*

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Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1996!

Available now for shipping only from Rob's Mini-o-lets
Best Display at 1995 AVSA National Show

AFRICAN VIOLETS

ROB'S BOO HOO: Cuddly sdbl. deep blue-purple pansies in abundance over dark, red-backed foliage; semimini

ROB'S CALYPSO BEAT: Covers itself w/large, bright pink pansies, dotted w/purple fantasy; med. green foliage; semimini

ROB'S CLOUDY SKIES: Loads of dbl. white and lt. blue multicolor stars; nice miniature

ROB'S COTTON BALL: Masses of large, triple, carnation-like white pom-pom blooms w/hint of blue in eye and green petal backs; med. green foliage; gorgeous semimini

ROB'S DOUBLE WHAMMY: Triple white carnation blooms w/edging of deep purple; semimini

ROB'S HIPPITY HOP: Wow! Fantastic sdbl. frilled med. orchid-blue w/thick edging of very dark purple; dark foliage; spectacular semimini

ROB'S PENNY ANTE: Tons of adorable sdbl. white pansies w/large, deep blue eyes & edges, held in bouquet above shiny foliage; great mini

ROB'S PERFECT PEACH: Best new intro at '95 AVSA; masses of unusual peachy-salmon dbls. w/rusty petal backs, often w/green; perfect, dark foliage; tremendous semimini showplant

ROB'S PINK PUFF: Lovely, heavily frilled, fully dbl. pink carnation blooms; very dark foliage; great bloomer; semimini

ROB'S SCOOTER: Bright med. blue-purple stacktite sdbl. pansies w/bright yellow anthers in eye; dark foliage; profuse semimini

ROB'S WILLY NILLY: Extremely heavy blooming fully dbl. blush white; fantastic small mini

3 New Chimeras ($10 each):

ROB'S BLUEBERRY PATCHES: Sdbl. light silver-blue w/white pinwheel stripes; terrific heavily var. foliage; extremely profuse semimini

ROB'S FE FI: Large single white stars w/bright pink pinwheel stripe, spotted w/blue fantasy; very unusual mini

ROB'S FO FUM: Large single white stars w/bright blue pinwheel stripe; nice mini

2 New Trailers! Excellent trailing habits.

ROB'S JINDALEE: Masses of dbl. med.-dark blue blooms w/occassional touches of white on tips; extremely profuse; terrific semimini showplant

ROB'S WILLAWONG: Lots of bright pink sdbl. semibells; good grower and bloomer; semimini

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STREPTOCARPUS

Introducing our own streptocarpus hybrids! All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extrememly easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. At maturity, most grow best in 4″ - 5″ pot.

BRISTOL'S BLUEBIRD: Extremely heavy bloomer, 12+ blooms per stem; very deep blue w/black eye, two white 'eyes'; blooms have velvety-texture

BRISTOL'S IDA WANNA: Large, eye-catching blooms; top petals silver-lavender, lower petals dark purple w/lav. edge and bright yellow throat

BRISTOL'S KISS ME: Sdbl. very deep pink, w/thick lines of very dark red-purple; beautiful

BRISTOL'S LIBATION: Large, dbl. med. orchid w/dark orchid-purple netting on lower lobes; the look of an orchid

BRISTOL'S LUV IT: My favorite! Lovely deep watermelon-pink, dk. maroon maple leaf stripes on cream throat fading to white; very heavy bloomer, 60+ on mature plant

BRISTOL'S NIGHTFALL: Stunning plant; very dark blue w/thick black veining on bright yellow throat; very profuse, 60+ on mature plant

BRISTOL'S PERIWINKLE: Soft lavender periwinkle-blooms w/clear yellow throat; extremely profuse bloomer, 60+ (per crown) on mature plant

BRISTOL'S RARE STONE: Sdbl. velvety, very deep-deep burgandy; terrific, one-of-a-kind color.

BRISTOL'S SUNSET: A must-have! Striking, large, deep watermelon-pink w/striking dark maroon streaks on large, very bright yellow throat; very prolific, 60+ blooms on mature plant

BRISTOL'S TALLY HO: Pretty, large sdbl. blooms, top petals lt. orchid, lower petals lt. orchid, lower petals dk. orchid-purple

BRISTOL'S TIE DYED: Spectacular! Dbl. white blooms, lower petals dark red-purple, edged in white; excellent bloomer

ALSO SHIPPING THE BEST IN SHOW-QUALITY STANDARD SIZE VARIETIES

PRICES: $3.50 per plant. Please add $6 per order for shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices. 10 different plants (our choice) $25 plus $6 shipping. We ship **ANYWHERE** (internationally), **ANYTIME** (ask about overnite service in winter). **SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.**

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The Violet Express

"Superior violets expressly for you!"

Welcome the coming spring season with these newest of Spring Beauties!

(Many more new releases are listed in our 1996 catalog.)

SUNCOAST BENDY'S LOVE (Sandra Williams) - A very special, glorious new release is this heavy bloomer with large, bright pink stars highlighted with fluted fine gold-white edges. Blossoms are sticktite singles-to-semidoubles above a *large* rosette of dark red-backed leaves with superb symmetry, reminiscent of the Sandra's award winning "Boca Grande" and named after her late beloved Mom. *PLANTS ONLY UNTIL LATE SUMMER*. **PLANTS $4.00 EACH. Leaves, when available, $2.00 each.**

SUNCOAST BUBBLE GUM (Sandra Williams) - Huge mounds of white single and semidouble pansies are especially yummy trimmed with strong pink centers and pink petal edges. Tastefully done atop ***standard-sized*** well-shaped emerald green leaves. A special treat! *PLANTS ONLY UNTIL LATE SUMMER*. **PLANTS $4.00 EACH. Leaves, when available, $2.00 each.**

SUNCOAST FAERIE (Sandra Williams) - Single to semidouble white pansies, with broad edges of pink, are stunningly borne in large clusters over emerald green foliage; a ***standard***. The combination of perfect symmetry surrounding the glorious blooms form a magical picture. *PLANTS ONLY UNTIL LATE SUMMER*. **PLANTS $4.00 EACH. Leaves, when available, $2.00 each.**

MYAKKA TRAIL (Sandra Williams) - You'll find major charm in this ***semi-miniature trailer***. With very striking, almost black, red-backed tailored foliage that trails just right - not too leggy, not too compact. Blooms of brilliant single purple pansies with the brightest of yellow stamens heavily cover this outstanding trailer. *PLANTS ONLY UNTIL LATE SUMMER - SUPPLY IS QUITE LIMITED (List a sub!)*. **PLANTS $4.00 EACH. Leaves, when available, $2.00 each.**

MAMA'S CORAL REEF (Ruby Cox) - Cream and medium green variegated ***standard*** foliage surrounds, with excellent symmetry, the wealth of semidouble coral pink stars on this newest beauty from Ruby's outstanding hybrids. This is a future award winner, a must for your collection! **PLANTS $3.75 EACH. Leaves $2.00 each.**

SASSY SALLY (Ruby Cox) - Pert and pretty with dark green ***standard*** foliage, outlined with a narrow variegated edge forming a wonderful circlet beneath the great quantity of semidouble-to-double flowers, sparkling in sassy shades of lavender and purple. A winner! **PLANTS $3.75 EACH. Leaves $2.00 each.**

SAUSY SUSIE (Ruby Cox) - Pair this delightful lass up with "Sassy Sally" for a brilliant display! Double blossoms in shades of light to deep blue are spectaculer above variegated ***standard*** leaves of cream and medium green. Bountiful, beautiful blooms, great folliage! **PLANTS $3.75 EACH. Leaves $2.00 each.**

ICE FOLLIES (Ethel Champion) - A lovely new ***standard*** with lightly ruffled off-white blooms that open with petals edged in green. The well shaped foliage is unusual - mottled and spotted and very attractive! **PLANTS $3.75 EACH. (Limited until late summer) Leaves $2.00 each.**

TRINKET BLUES (Ethel Champion) - Tan-to-pink variegated foliage skirts this wonderful new ***semiminiatue*** that is covered with charming double flowers shaded from white to medium blue. Shed the winter blahs and blues with this precious new release. **PLANTS $3.75 EACH. Leaves $2.00 each.**

RAMBLIN' SHOW STOPPER (Ethel Champion) - Who can ask for more from a **trailer**? So very many large pink blossoms to cover the easily variegated ***standard*** foliage that **really** trails!! Perfectly named, this will 'stop the show' when you display it in all it's beauty. **PLANTS $3.75 EACH. Leaves $2.00 each.**

RAMBLIN' RIGHT ALONG (Ethel Champion) - What a perfect combination! A pink and pink ***standard trailer***. Light pink blossoms have a darker center; always in bloom against heavenly, heavily pink variegated leaves. A 'right choice' for your collection **PLANTS $3.75 EACH. Leaves $2.00 each.**

COMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS OF HUNDREDS OF ADDITIONAL VARIETIES. NEWER RELEASES AND OLDER PROVEN FAVORITES, FROM OVER 50 OF THE WORLD'S PREMIER HYBRIDIZERS ARE LISTED IN OUR EXTENSIVE 1996 CATALOG. Also listed is a lovely selection of streptocarpus, episcias, columneas, and chiritas.

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ADD to all orders: $.50 per plant after the 1st 4 plants ordered. $.10 per leaf after the 1st 12 leaves ordered.
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We ship well established starter plants and fresh cut leaves May thru October, weather permitting.
WE TAKE PRIDE IN THE QUALITY OF OUR STOCK AND IN OUR EXPERT WRAPPING AND PACKING.
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SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS

SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS

A SAMPLING OF WHAT YOU WILL FIND ON OUR 1996 LIST.

HOBBS – DEAN'S SWEETHEART - Wine sticktight, single blossoms. Heavily variegated, symmetrical show foliage. Mini
PITTMAN – ALAMO FLAME - Large double flame coral blossoms cover wonderful symmetrical medium green foliage. Standard
STORK – PEN N INK - Large semidouble white pansies edged with deep violet blue; symmetrical medium green tailored foliage. Standard
NESS – FROSTY ETCHINGS - Fuchsia semidouble, pansy blossom with mauve shadings and deeper fantasy specks. Medium green semimini foliage.
FOSTER - SELENA - Hot pink double blooms, each petal edged in fine purple sprinkles; beautiful glossy, smooth dark green foliage with red reverse. Standard
ROBINSON – Leaves only available of the new '96 Rob's. Plants available in May. Two trailers, Rob's Willawong, and Jundalee. Semiminis and minis such as Perfect Peach, Scooter, Hippity Hop and Linda Lee.

Trailers! CHEROKEE TR., PIP SQUEAK, TINY WOOD, ROB'S WAGGA WAGGA, BABY BRIAN, FALLING STAR and MANY MORE.
Our complete descriptive list is available for $1.00.

Plants of the customer's choice $3.50 each. Minimum of 4 plants per order.
Priority shipping: Up to 6 plants $6.00. Add 40 cents for each additional plant.
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We ship from April to November. If weather permits we will ship in southern states all year.
Plants and leaves shipped only in the U.S. and her territories.

Make checks payable to Shirley Sanders. Texans add 7 3/4% tax. We welcome your letters.
Sandy and Shirley Sanders, 1034 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78221 Phone #210-923-1093

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Fax Orders only - 912-574-5173

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ALAMO AZTEC
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ALAMO FROST
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ALAMO ODE
ALAMO PRIDE
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MINI AND SEMIMINI $3.50
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ROWDY RAY
SPIN OUT
TEEN GLOW
TINKER BELLS
WHITE DEW

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ALAMO SUNSHINE (STD)
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MOONLIGHT RAYS
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LEMON DROP
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PINK QUILT
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DRESSED IN PINK
CHERRY SHOWERS
TRACES
PINK FLICKER
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SPARKS FLY
SEA CORAL
SUNLIT VELVET
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PORCELAIN DOLL
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MIDNIGHT RASCAL
SWEET CHERUB
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LITTLE JEZEBEL
LOLLIPOP KID
FLASHY ANGEL
WINE DROPS
LITTLE RED HEAD
DANCING RAINBOW

ALSO LYONS 1994 VARIETIES AND OUR OWN HYBRIDS & OTHER NEW RELEASES. Please list a few substitutes to help rush orders.
1995-96 Plants - $3.50 ea., Yellow varieties - $7.00 ea., all others $3.00 ea. Please add $6.00 or 15%, whichever is greater for the First Class Shipping.
Shipping starts April 1st -- Weather permitting. Orders shipped in order received. Greenhouse open 7 days a week, please call first.
COMMERCIAL MEMBER: AVSA, DIXIE, GSN, GSAVC, and GAVS. State Inspected.

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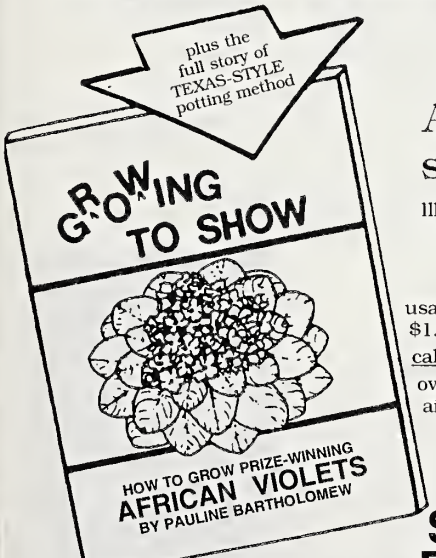

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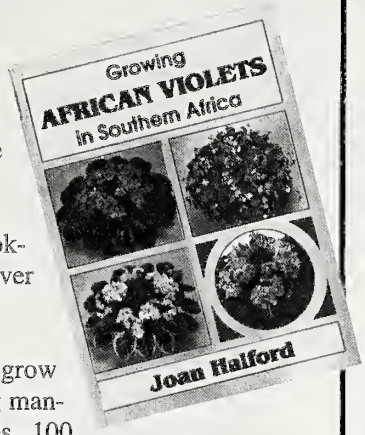

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3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS (Standards, Tubs, Squares)

Inch Size	Color	Type	Number of Pots 10	20	50	100	500
2	Wh/Gr	RS	$ .90	$1.75	$ 4.00	$ 6.75	$ 29.00
2-1/8	WhTerraCotta	RT	.90	1.75	4.00	6.75	29.00
2-1/4	Wh	RS or SQ	1.30	2.20	4.65	8.50	34.00
2-1/2	Wh/Gr	RS or SQ	1.50	2.50	5.50	9.50	39.00
3	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.80	3.30	7.50	13.50	57.50
3-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT or SQ	2.10	3.75	8.50	15.50	67.50
4	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.50	4.50	10.00	18.00	78.00
4-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.70	5.00	11.00	20.00	88.00
5	Wh/Gr	RT or RS	3.25	5.80	13.50	25.00	110.00
6	Wh/Gr	RT or RS	4.00	6.50	16.00	31.50	135.00
6-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT	4.50	8.25	18.50	33.50	150.00
8			10.00	18.00	42.00	72.00	180.00
10			11.00	20.00	48.00	92.00	220.00

NOTE: Good rolled rims on 3", 3-1/2", & 4" Round Tubs
RS: ht. = width / RT: ht. = 3/4 width / SQ & RS: same volume

WATER RESERVOIRS – (see through) for WICK-WATERING

Volume Size	20	50	100	500
8 oz. (4"w. x 1-3/4"h.)	$ 10.00	$21.00	$40.00	$160.00
16 oz. (4"w. x 3"h.)	10.00	21.00	40.00	160.00
32 oz. (5-1/4"w x 3-3/8"h.)	14.00	31.00	59.00	250.00

1/2 price for containers OR lids only.
Wicks not supplied.

LEAF SUPPORTS – J. F. INDUSTRIES

SIZE	3	10	25
6" fits up to 3" pot	$3.00	$ 10.00	$20.00
9" fits up to 5" pot	3.60	11.50	25.00
12" fits up to 5" pot	4.50	13.00	26.00
15" fits up to 8" pot	7.00	19.00	40.00
18" fits up to 8" pot	8.00	22.00	40.00

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KNOX-OUT (PT1500A) aerosol spray	16 oz.	$7.95
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VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX A mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite lime & minimum amt. fertilizer.	2 gal.	$3.50
FINE SEEDLING MIX like VH Mix, but fine vermiculite and no fertilizer	2 gal.	3.50
PERLITE - aerates soil Coarse or fine	1 gal.	2.25
VERMICULITE - holds moisture coarse or fine	1 gal.	2.25
CANADIAN PEAT - milled	2 gal.	3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - sweetens mix	1 lb.	1.50
CHARCOAL - keeps mix sweet	12 oz.	2.00

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(352) 377-8465

1996

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96 African Violets for 1996

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HONORE
HOT PANTS
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LAVENDER SUNRISE
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African Violet

Dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June 1996 Volume 49 Number 3

...ITHSONIAN
JUN 21 1996
LIBRARIES

AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:
Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual $18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - $20.50; Commercial USA $30; Commercial International - $33.75; Life (USA) - $275. International Life $325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - $20; Council, State or Region - $20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955, 407-631-1106.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, P. O. Box 38, Oreland, PA 19075.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, 1534 Robeson, Fall River, MA 02720.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Atlanta, GA - May 20-25, 1996. St. Petersburg, FL - June 1-8, 1997. Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - $8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 $6.00 per 100;1000 and over - $4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 $27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - $25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over $23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1996, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; FAX 409-839-4329.

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue -Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb.1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; 410-686-4667.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan. issue - Oct. 15; Mar. issue - Dec. 15; May issue - Feb. 15; July issue - Apr. 15; Sept. issue - June 15; Nov. issue Aug. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send to Al and Cathy Cornibe, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith, 489 Linwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209 and Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - $13.25 postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - $8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - $25.00. Updates (when available) - $25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Richard Nicholas, 648 Woodbriar Ct., Evansville, IN 47715

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - $7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - $10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook **prior** to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is $4.25

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November.
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POSTMASTER: Please Send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June | Volume 49 | Number 3

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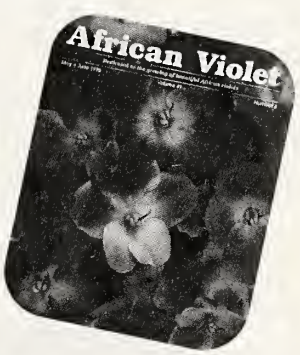

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THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. ORG. 1946

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African Violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

Dear AVSA Members and Friends,

As you read this message many of you are preparing for what we all hope will be a pleasant and memorable trip to Atlanta, GA. and the AVSA Golden Anniversary Convention. We are all looking forward to the many tours and presentations; and especially the beautiful show that will be open only to AVSA convention registrants on Friday evening. We do want to encourage all those who wish to view and enjoy our show to visit on Saturday of convention week when the showroom will be open between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm; and again for a last viewing from 9:45 to 10:15 pm for both Convention registrants and the public.

In March, AVSA lost one of its beloved supporters, former Editor of our African Violet Magazine, Mrs. Grace Wendling Foote. "Ms. Grace", as she was known to many of us, was Editor from 1963 to 1985. The title, "Editor Emeritus" was conferred upon her when she retired. Our Office Manager, Cindy Chatelain, accompanied Yvonne and me when we attended the funeral services, celebrated at the First Christian Church in Port Arthur, Texas. Through her dedication and continued support "Ms. Grace" helped guide our magazine to its present stature among society publications. To her, we are sincerely grateful. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

Our Editor has been putting in some quality time in a project that all of us will enjoy when it is completed. The Fiftieth Anniversary Book will be available for purchase at the Atlanta Convention. Judging from information I have received it's going to be something special, and everyone will want a copy of his own. Prices for the book have not been finalized as we go to press, but we will have all of the particulars for you in our next issue. Naturally, the book will be such that it would make a much appreciated gift for any occasion. Be sure to include the Anniversary Book as one of your anticipated purchases in Atlanta.

National AVSA Conventions give attendees an opportunity to meet many of the advertisers and columnists of our magazine for the first time. Believe me, they will welcome the opportunity to talk with you and to answer any culture questions you may have. The Convention is a great occasion to make lasting friendships with fellow convention goers from all over the country and some foreign ones, too. I eagerly anticipate the Fiftieth Anniversary Convention and sincerely hope that I will have the chance to greet all of you there.

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702 • (409) 839-4725

The AVSA 50th Anniversary Convention in Atlanta is only a few short weeks away. Any changes in the convention schedule will be printed in the Souvenir Book which will be given to all attendees.

The AVSA 50th Anniversary Book will be available in Atlanta. As it is presently being printed, the price per copy has not been decided upon yet, but it will be affordable.

For those of you unable to come to Atlanta, the Anniversary Book will be available through the office, at a price including postage, after June 1. Please wait until June 1 to inquire about price and availability.

A new Commercial Member, **Miracle Gro**, is advertising with us now. Please see their full-page color ad on page 40 of this issue.

I encourage all of our Commercial Members to advertise in the AVM. I hope you feel that a Commercial Membership is a bargain.

Our Commercial Members are updated each year and listed in the September/October AVM. They have the opportunity to be featured in David Buttram's "A Closer Look" column (read about Hill Country African Violets on page 22 of this issue). When "violet hunters" call the AVSA office, we always refer them to our Commercial Members.

African violets and related products are sold at the conventions by our commercial members only, and almost all of the plant photographs in the AVM come from our Commercial Members.

Please help support this publication through advertising.

Nancy Hayes, who is organizing the slide program in Atlanta, has asked for slides from the early years of AVSA. I have many on loan from the Tinaris, and will send copies on to Nancy. If any of you long-time members have slides from the early years, preferably from before 1980, please send them to Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

The African violet world lost a treasured member in March with the death of **Mrs. Grace Foote**, former Editor of the AVM. Grace Foote edited the AVM from 1963 to 1985, when she retired with the honorary title of Editor Emeritus. Two of Mrs. Foote's dear friends and former co-workers on the AVM, **Anne Tinari** and **Gus Becker**, have written tributes to this gifted woman. (page 35)

When I first came to work for AVSA, I didn't understand the concept of becoming "addicted" to African violets. In fact, last year at this time, I owned three African violet plants.

I think I understand the concept a little better...I now have about forty plants. My office in the AVSA building is on the second floor, in the north-west corner. The windows are deep and wide, and every inch of window sill is covered with plants. I also have a three-shelf window planter, given to me by our friends at **Indoor Gardening Supplies**. It too, is full. I guess I'm hooked!

CORRECTIONS IN JUDGES HANDBOOK

Page 47
AVSA Show Awards, first sentence, "AVSA affiliated chairman", change to "schedule approver".

Page 82
7. "AVSA affiliate chairman" change to "schedule approver"

American Airlines is NOT offering a drawing for free tickets this year

African Violet Society of America, Inc. Memo

by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager
2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702

Spring has finally arrived and we have been "busy as bees" at the Beaumont office. From late January through June the activity at your National Headquarters is greater than any other time of the year. We have our largest renewal period in February and many of our Affiliates have shows and meetings that require slide programs and various items be shipped from the office. It seems as if we also have many more calls requesting membership information. We also stay very busy with convention registration. The only comment I've heard from the staff is that we need to increase our membership so we can stay this busy twelve months of the year! Please keep your office staff happy by getting a new member to join AVSA or encourage a former member to renew their membership.

We are preparing for the Convention in Atlanta. It promises to be one the best ever as AVSA will be celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary. It is not too late for you to make plans to attend the convention to help celebrate AVSA's proud heritage. We will have a special 50th Anniversary pin for sale at convention. A limited number of pins have been ordered so be sure to come by the AVSA Sales table and purchase yours before they are sold out. The pins will be available for purchase from the office after convention. Take a moment and come by the AVSA information and sales table to say hello to Ruth and me. Meeting our AVSA members is the most enjoyable activity of convention for us.

Just a reminder to all AFFILIATES: If you change officers between May and September, please send in the name and address of your new president by July 30. We need this information in order to list the president of each affiliate correctly in the September AVM. Also, please make sure your Affiliate dues are current.

Many of our Commercial and Affiliate members distribute membership applications with their merchandise or give them out at local shows and sales. We would like for you to take a moment to check the applications you are giving out and verify that the membership rates and the address for the Beaumont office are correct. Our membership fees went up July 1, 1995, and we are now using the street address rather than the PO Box number. We still receive many applications that contain the old membership rates and address. Please remember to have the correct membership rates and address printed on any new membership applications that you distribute. Thanks to many of our commercial and affiliate members AVSA receives hundreds of new members each year. We appreciate the effort you make.

The AVSA national office now has an **E-Mail Address**. If you would like to contact the Beaumont office via e-mail, our address is CindyCAVSA@aol.com. We would be happy to hear from you. We have had many people question why we are not currently on the internet. All I can say is "we are working on it." More details in the July AVM. We do have a listing on Garden Net on America On-line. Did you know the AVSA also has an on-line Affiliate? It is Cyberspace AVS and the e-mail address is twhitley@onyx.xtalwind.net. One of our members, Stephen Gaudin, has also set up a beautiful web site with great info on African violets. His web site can be reached at sgaudin2@aol.com. These sites offer a wealth of information on African violets.

REMINDER: Best Varieties List Now Due

With all the new varieties, each vote is extremely important. We hope to have over 15,000 votes to tabulate this year. The deadline has been extended to **June 1** to give as many members and clubs as possible a chance to still participate. Any number of African violets or species, up to 25 per member, may be included.

Thank you for making this List such a valuable resource for all of us.

Please send your **List of 25 Best Varieties** to:

Floyd Lawson
1100 W. Huntington Dr. #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

Question Box

James Smith
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209

Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

As I write this, much of the country is gripped by one of the worst winters in memory—at this moment, it's a balmy 4 degrees outside. After the record cold, the near-record snowfall (and the flooding when it melted), springtime can't come soon enough. My warm plant room and my blooming violets are sometimes the only things keeping me sane during a winter like this.

As always, telephone calls are welcome during business hours (call me, not Jim). Mail sent to me will be read, but don't expect a reply, since I simply haven't the time to do this. Send mail to Jim at his address above.

Q: *After repotting, some of my miniature violets will begin to grow smaller than normal leaves in the plant's center. Any explanation?*

A: I find that this is sometimes the case with some of the heavier blooming varieties. To start with, prolonged, heavy blooming seems to divert the plant's energies away from foliage growth. This is especially a problem when heavy bloom is concentrated over the center of the plant—there just isn't enough light or room for new growth to fully develop. This is true for both minis (semiminis) and standards. This is one reason "show plants" are disbudded—to promote foliage growth.

This can be a problem following repotting, particularly if done while the plant is in heavy bloom (which was true for this grower). Having pruned away a portion of the root ball, the plant now has to maintain a head of bloom with a smaller root system. The consequence is that new foliage development suffers. For miniature varieties, where the head of bloom is large, relative to the size of the plant, this seems more likely to occur.

My answer is to remove all bloom when repotting, for any size variety (I do leave the smaller buds). This allows the plant to reestablish its root system and grow some new foliage before it needs to support much bloom. Those small buds that remain will become blossoms soon enough.

Q: *My violets develop plenty of buds, but many of them don't open into flowers. The humidity level is quite low (20-25%) in my home. Is this the problem?*

A: Low humidity can cause buds to "blast" (not open) or not fully develop into blossoms. The solution, of course, is to raise the humidity level in the area surrounding your violets. An easy way to do this is to grow plants above, or on, a moist surface. If you top water, this can be done by placing pots atop a tray of pebbles or gravel. Fill the tray with water, to just below the surface, so that pots don't actually sit in water. The evaporation of water from the tray will increase the humidity level surrounding the plants.

Watering by capillary mats will also increase humidity. Here, pots are placed upon a damp blanket (use those made from man-made fibers). Plants draw moisture through the drainage holes, where soil is in contact with the damp blankets. Again, humidity is increased as water evaporates from the blankets. Community wick-watering of plants also will increase humidity. To do this, place a sheet of "egg-crating" over a tray holding water. "Egg-crating" is the plastic grid used in fluorescent ceiling lighting, is sold in most lumber yards or home centers, and can be cut to size. Pots sit atop the crating above the water in the trays, with the wicks extending through the crating and into the water. Water is drawn through the wicks and into the pot. The standing water in the trays will also increase humidity.

Lastly, your violets themselves provide humidity as they transpire moisture through their leaves and water evaporates from the soil surface. Grouping plants together will take advantage of this—but don't overcrowd. For those

of us with really large numbers of plants, low humidity never seems to be a problem.

Q: *I root my leaf cuttings in water. The leaf will produce a plantlet, but when I pot it into soil, it dies. Should I remove the mother leaf when I do this?*

A: Though leaves may be rooted in water, there are disadvantages to this method. The root system that develops is one that is best adapted to growing in water. Potting the plantlet into soil means adapting to a much different environment. Also, you'll notice how the roots "cling together" when removed from the water. Without a spreading root system, which maximizes exposure to moisture and nutrients, the plantlet is at a further disadvantage when potted into soil.

Partly for these reasons, most growers root leaves in something other than water. Any very light, porous, medium will work. These are made up mostly (or entirely) of vermiculite and perlite. Besides producing more plantlets per leaf, these media will produce better developed root systems that adapt easily to potting into soil.

As for removing the mother leaf, this can be done when the plantlet is potted alone. If you're concerned about the plantlet's survival, you can place it in a clear sandwich bag for a few weeks. The high humidity within the bag will keep the plantlet from wilting. Further watering shouldn't be needed if the bag is sealed—if it's too soggy the plantlet may rot.

Q: *I've been told that I should repot my violet when it shows a "neck", by lowering it in the pot. What can I do when the neck is so long that simply lowering it isn't enough to eliminate the neck?*

A: To review, a "neck" is the trunk of the violet that is exposed as older, lower leaves are removed over time. Repotting the violet lower in its pot will eliminate the neck. To illustrate, let's assume a neck 1/2″ in length. Remove 1/2″ from the bottom of the root ball, and push the plant back down into the pot—the bottom row of leaves should now be level with the pot rim. Now add fresh soil to cover the exposed neck. The neck will produce new roots into this soil.

A problem arises when the neck is so long that all, or nearly all of the rootball would need to be removed to lower it sufficiently in its pot—say, a 4″ neck on a plant in a 4″ pot. In these instances, drastic measures are necessary. First, remove all but the healthiest foliage, keeping just a row or two of leaves. Next, cut away the entire root ball, keeping just a bit of the neck—1/2″ to 1″ depending upon size of plant. Fill a small pot, no bigger than 2-3″, with moistened soil. Firmly press the neck/stub into the soil. Place the potted plant into a sealed, clear plastic bag and put into a light (but not hot) location. In about 3-4 weeks, the plant will have developed new roots and can be removed from the bag, as good as new.

Since this can be a rather traumatic experience (for both you and your violet), it's best to avoid it with a little preventative care. Any violet should be repotted **at least once every year**. preferably every 5-6 months. By repotting more frequently, each repotting will be less drastic, since only a small neck will have developed. Less of the root ball will need to be removed, and you and your violet will suffer less.

Q: *Is there a way to force African violets to bloom? My plants do not start blooming until they are mature plants. I have seen very small plants in bloom. Are these early bloomers "forced"?*

A: Early blooming is a product of two things: the genetic predisposition of the variety, and good culture. Some varieties just bloom earlier than others. As a hybridizer, this is a trait that I look for. Some, in fact, begin to bloom just shortly after being separated from a leaf cutting. I will actually remove the buds on these varieties to allow it to develop some foliage first. These varieties are also often the ones being sold, since commercial growers are interested in a quick turnover— varieties that take up growing space waiting to bloom are more costly to grow.

Good cultural conditions, from the very beginning, are also important in early blooming. For example, I fertilize normally from the **beginning**. Leaf cuttings and small plantlets are fertilized as much and as often as my mature plants. This is contrary to the opinion of some. My feeling is a growing plant needs food, no matter its size. Light, water, temperature, etc. are also the same as for mature plants. This isn't "forcing" in that nothing different is being done for younger plants. What's being provided is the optimal conditions to allow young plants to reach their full potential at their earliest age.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print

Thinking Small

Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004

Convention time is here! I hope many of you are planning to attend AVSA's 50th birthday celebration in the city where it all began: Atlanta, Georgia. Atlanta should be a fantastic place to visit this year as it is also host to the summer Olympics. So, for southern hospitality and a bounty of violets, Atlanta's the place to be!

One of the things I looked forward to most as a non-attendee at conventions was coverage of all the wonderful plants, both old and new, that were displayed at convention. So, for all those unable to attend, full convention reporting will appear in my September column. This will include winners, outstanding entries, and new varieties to look for, all as it pertains to the small ones.

Our task today, however, focuses on our continual pursuit to grow the small ones better, beginning with a discussion on pots and concluding with (almost) everything you need to know about soil.

Rules Are Made To Be Broken

Throughout African violet-dom, we have been advised not to overpot our violets because in order to bloom well they must be root-bound. Thus, we have been told to grow them in pots no greater than one-third the diameter of the plant. This advice is so fundamental it has become a rule for our judges to follow when evaluating plants except it **does not apply to our small ones!**

First, remember our miniatures cannot exceed 6" in diameter. If we applied the rule then, minis cannot be potted in anything exceeding 2". Likewise, semiminiatures cannot exceed 8" in diameter so a three-inch pot could definitely be overpotting, while a 2 1/2" pot would be too small for an 8" semi.

Because of the conflict between the rule and common practice, AVSA had the great wisdom to exempt the small ones from the hard and fast 1/3 rule.* Instead, the rule for small ones has become one of loose interpretation: generally, any size pot can be used as long as it is generally intended to grow small ones. As a result most minis appear in anything from 2"-2 1/4", and most semis are grown in 2 1/4-2 1/2" pots, regardless of their diameter.

Going To Extremes

There are many very good growers who, after experimentation, will grow in other size pots as well. This is one of the beauties of having a flexible rule. For example, several years ago Pauline Bartholomew made "miniaturizing" violets popular. This is accomplished by growing in a pot that is 1-1 1/4" in diameter resulting in an effect similar to bonsai.

By reducing the root potential, the plant size and its overall growth will be severely limited. An interesting feature of miniaturizing violets is usually the bloom size is unaffected. We will have more on this process in future articles.

Another option that must be carefully employed is growing in larger pots up to 3". Growing in a pot this large will result in heavier blooming plants because of their larger root systems. The disadvantage is that by allowing a larger root system the plant will be difficult to hold within the 8" size limit. Over several years I have seen plants with large heads of bloom grown in this manner, but invariably, they either exceed the size limit or have had their symmetry ruined as a result of severe trimming. It takes an exceptional grower to grow a small one in a pot this large. On a practical basis, what we can learn from this is to grow large growing semis (ones that easily meet and exceed the size limit) in smaller pots: 2 1/8" or 2 1/4", while trying the "behaved" semis in the larger pots in an attempt to achieve more blooms.

A Lack of Diversity

There are many options of potting styles and methods available to the grower of standards: Oyama, Moist-rites, etc. These pots allow growers different methods to optimize their plant's potential. To the best of my knowledge, these options are not available to the grower of small ones, but that does not mean modifications cannot be made. Several years ago a superior grower of small ones, Linda Ray,

described a method whereby she modified the Moist-rites to suit her needs. She potted up her small one in a clay 2-2 1/2″ pot, and then inserted it, pot and all, into a Moist-rite filled with potting soil. She reported outstanding results.** Personally, I have not attempted this or other modifications, but encourage you: the only limit is your own imagination and creativity.

Above The Rim, And I'm Not Talking Basketball!

Several years ago we were introduced to rimming our pots with aquarium tubing. This methodology involves cutting the tubing long enough to go around the circumference of the pot, and then very carefully slitting the entire length of the tubing so it will fit over the edge. Other types of tubing may be used; the reason aquarium tubing is specifically identified is because it has a flat edge that may be used to stabilize the tubing while the slit is made. Once the pot is rimmed with the tube our violet's petioles will not be cut by the sharp pot edges and also, fertilizer salts will not build up as readily on the pot's edge.

Simply because of their size, rimming is not as necessary with the small ones because their petioles do not grow so long nor do their leaves become so huge. The best reason for rimming small pots is to lessen the harm of salt buildup. If this is generally not a problem in your collection, it is not worth the trouble or time it takes to rim them. If you decide to do it anyway, an additional step will need to be taken. Because the pot circumference is much smaller and the tubing does not easily encircle it, use a hot glue gun to glue the ends of the tube in place. Now, before you decide to get too creative, Joyce Stork cautions against attempting to rim the pot with nothing but hot glue because it is not very effective but is very messy!

And Now For The Scoop On Dirt

Believe it or not, here is one thing where I truthfully can say there is no difference between small ones and standards. Any African violet preparation you're currently using and are satisfied with will do perfectly well with your small ones. Let's review the basics then!

The violet mixes you buy prepackaged in stores will probably be too heavy for violets, but can be lightened up with the addition of perlite. If you buy from an AVSA commercial, their mix should be sufficient. If you dare to be so bold, mixing your own mix can be a challenging and very rewarding experience. A good beginner's mix is simple: 1 part Canadian sphagnum peat moss, 1 part vermiculite and 1 part perlite. This basic mix can be adjusted to suit your growing needs. If you are having to water frequently and/or your soil is drying out, try adding more peat or vermiculite. If your plants are water-logged and rotting, evidenced by poor root growth and a foul smell (soil should generally smell "sweet" or "earthy" like freshly turned garden soil), then add more perlite.

Now, here are a few considerations to keep in mind. First, vermiculite comes in various sizes ranging from coarse to fine. The finer the vermiculite, the more water it will hold and the less you should use in your mix. The more coarse the vermiculite, the less water it will hold, and the more you can use. Another caution is to make sure it is labeled for horticultural use because some vermiculite is meant to be used for insulation purposes and has been treated with harmful chemicals.

Second, paying close attention to your growing environment when creating your own soil mix can really make a difference. If either your plant room or the region you live in is humid, a lighter soil mix is called for. In more arid regions or if your growing area is on the dry side, a heavier soil mix would lessen the need for frequent waterings.

Third, there are lots of soil mix recipes to be considered. Caution should be used when adding more than the basics (peat, vermiculite and perlite) to any mix. All elements should be sterilized and at the very least, stored carefully. Also, beware of adding too many additives because they will affect your plant's fertilizer needs. If your soil has a lot of additives in it that provide extra nutrients, continuing your regular fertilizer practice could result in overfertilizing.

Getting To The Bottom of Things

Most of us are familiar with the "Texas-style" method of potting, where a layer of perlite is put at the bottom of a pot. Several holes are punched in the sides of the pot to allow for more oxygen to reach the roots. Oyama pots function similarly. Several of us use a modified method whereby a thick layer of perlite (1/2-1″) is placed at the bottom of a pot to lessen the likelihood of overwatering. With the small ones, however, this practice of perlite "layering" is not recommended. These small violets need as much soil, (i.e. nutrient holding capacity) as possible, and the amount of soil in a small pot is so little as compared to a standard that to replace any amount of soil with the inert perlite would do more harm than good.

Next Time

Next up for our consideration are lights and other general growing concerns. In the meantime, don't forget to send me your 25 selections for your favorite small ones. Finally, I remind you of a saying David Buttram used to conclude his articles because it is so applicable: "Write if you care."

*See AVSA's Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges, latest edition as updated, under "Considerations for Judging Single-crown Miniatures and Semiminiatures" and the special notes following.

** "Preparing Minis For A Show", Linda Ray, Vol 38, African Violet Magazine 5, November 1985, p. 10.

A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Achimenes 'Ambroise Verschaffelt'

Have you ever seen a hanging basket of this famous Achimenese (ah-KIH-meh-neez)? This hybrid has been around for a long time even though it is slow to produce an abundance of rhizomes. Because of its slow increase of rhizomes, Verschaffelt may be rather hard to find. Foliage seems small and sparse, compared to other Achimenes, so it is given an extended growing season by moving it inside under fluorescent lights for about six weeks after our frost. This extra bloom period and warmth seems to help it produce more rhizomes. Because it is very stingy with production, allowing it to bloom a long time assures maximum rhizome production.

Achimenes seem to have two basic growing habits, spreading and upright. If growth is sprawling, the plant may need to be given more light, then, pinched back to encourage more compact growth. As a general rule, failure to flower means the plant does not have enough light. Even though Achimenes have seasonal competition from all the summer hanging baskets, I think their beauty outshines the rest.

Contrary to much printed copy, few, if any, are injured by air pollution. Their culture is quite easy. They thrive in any airy soil mix that contains a water-retaining polymer. Basket culture outside should include the use of a timed-release fertilizer like Osmocote. All fertilizer and polymers must be evenly dispersed in the soil; direct sunshine will deplete or injure them. Baskets are occasionally fertilized with water soluble fertilizer, especially after an extended rainy spell. Natural fertilizers like fish emulsion start the growing season off well.

Please be aware that the water retaining polymers will completely suffocate soil masses if it rains for many hours. They keep retaining water as long as it is available. Without air, plant roots will die and rot may start. When raindrops stand on the foliage of outdoor plants, the sun can shine on them without causing a mark or damage to the leaf surface. It's amazing.

Bury the rhizomes about one inch deep in the soil, placing the string-like growth upward. The baskets are then placed under a temporary light set-up in April, to be moved outside about the middle of May, or when danger of frost is over. My temporary light house is formed by two card tables placed side-by-side with four four-foot fluorescent light fixtures hanging under them. Each light is held by a cord that is looped around the table. The whole thing is then covered with plastic and kept moist and warm until leaves are visible. These must be "hardened off" before they are placed outside.

Full shade under my elm tree starts them off, later moving them to dappled light and then to almost full sun. Please, NOTE. We have very little sunshine here in Western Pennsylvania as compared to Southern California. You must find a happy medium. The more light they receive the more bloom they have. The varieties that get leggy are pinched to produce side growth. This forms a pleasing basket. Achimenes also make a fantastic pot plant. If top heavy, trellis or stake. I even add them to porch boxes and urns. They do well and adapt to many exposures.

Dormancy starts when temperatures drop to about 55° and foliage begins to droop. This signals us to withhold water and take them inside. Trim the dried foliage away and store them in marked plastic bags away from light, but above freezing. Some people like to remove the rhizomes,

place them in vermiculite and store them in plastic bags.

Mine stay in the same soil for at least two years. The dry basket is soaked in warm water, holes are poked with a pencil and fresh Osmocote and polymers are pushed into the soil. It doesn't matter if rhizomes are punctured, they just send up more growth from each scale. I add about an inch of fresh potting medium and water it in. This fills the edge of the pot if it has shrunk from drying. I always crumble the surface of the old soilball before I soak it. It is important to add either fish emulsion or concentrated kelp fertilizer to start the soil activities.

If you are planting a new basket, push the rhizomes into the soil about one inch either horizontally or upward with the new growth pointed to the surface. Try not to break any of the new growth even if it is thin and wiry, it will still produce green leaves eventually. The size of the rhizomes has little to do with the size of the flowers or even the size of the growth. My huge Mexican blue flower comes from the smallest quarter-inch round, white rhizome. Achimenes 'Milton' is average size but may produce rhizomes four-inches long. The shape of the rhizomes has nothing to do with the type of growth habit either. The intergeneric hybrids like X-Achicodonia and X-Achimenantha are grown like Achimenes. The first issue of "The Gloxinian" for 1996 just arrived and it is entirely devoted to Achimenes and contains their seed fund list. You must be a member to order these. Send $20 to AGGS Membership Sec., M.J. and D.B. Tylers, P. O. Box 1598, Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194.

Achimenes can be propagated by cuttings, seed, scales, propagules and rhizomes. What a plant! The following is a list of some sources. If you are not listed, send me your address and it will be placed in future source lists.

SOURCES

Belisle's Violet House P. 0. Box 111 Radison, WI 54867-0111	Catalog $2 X-Achimenantha
Coda Gardens P. 0. Box 8417-AV Fredericksburg, VA 22404	Cataog $2 Species, plus
Geo. W. Park Seed. Co Cokesbury Rd. Grenwood, SC 29647	Free Catalog Seeds, Rhizomes
Karleen's Achimenes 1407 W. Magnolia Valdosta, GA 31601-4235	Catalog $1.50 Extensive list
Lauray of Salisbury 432 Undermountain Rd. Salisbury, CT 06068	Catalog $2

BASIC CULTURE

Several people at our convention asked me to give the basic culture of gesneriads, even the rare ones. This can't be done in one column, so, here is an index to the gesneriads featured in my column the past five years. Each column gives culture as close to basics as possible. But, remember, my basics are in an average Pennsylvania home and garden. You must make adaptations to your growing area.

X-Achimenantha 'Dutch Treat', March, 1991
X-Achimenantha 'Inferno', March, 1993
Achimenes, Jan. 1990, Sept. 1994
Achimenes 'Ambroise Verschaffelt', May 1996
Achimenes 'Desiree', Jan. 1992
Achimenes 'Warren', March 1995
Aeschynanthus radicans, July 1995
Chirita sinensis, May, 1990
Codonanthe 'Paula', Nov. 1993
X-Colbergaria 'Orange Fire', July 1994
Diastema vexans, Nov. 1990
Episcia 'Acajou', Sept, 1990
Episcia 'Cleopatra', Jan, 1993
Episcias, pink foliage, May, 1990
Gesneria 'Lemon Drop', March 1990
Kohleria, Jonathan Ford, Nov 1992
Nautilocalyx pemphidius, Jan 1995
Nautilocalyx picturatus, June 1993
Nematanthus 'Tropicana', July 1991
Petrocosmea flaccida, May 1992
Primulina tabacum, Nov 1994
Saintpaulia, March 1996, Sept 1992
Saintpaulia trailer, July 1992
Sinningia 'Apricot Bouquet' July, 1993
Sinningia 'Bright Eyes', March 1992
Sinningia cardinalis, Sept 1993
Sinningia 'Cindy-ella', July 1990
Sinningia 'Paper Moon', May 1994
Sinningia 'Pink Dandy', Sept 1991
Sinningia 'Ruffled Wood Nymph', May 1991
Sinningia Sellovii, May, 1995
Sinningia 'Star Eyes' Jan 1994, Jan 1990
Sinningia 'Treva's Treasure' and 'Beauty', Nov 1995
X-Smithicodonia 'Behavin' ', Jan 1991
Streptocarpus cyanandrus, Jan 1996
Streptocarpus 'Streaker', Sept 1995

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith
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If your hybridization and seed sowing efforts have been successful, you should now have a batch of seedlings that need to be separated. While these tiny plants appear to be very delicate, they are actually easy to work with if you keep in mind the following suggestions:

1. Let the seedlings grow large enough until they are comfortable for **you** to work with. There is no correct size for moving the seedlings into individual pots. Some people can work with seedlings as small as 1/4 inch in diameter while others prefer to wait until they are much larger.

2. Never handle a seedling by the stem. Always hold the plant by the leaves to prevent crushing the stem and killing it.

3. Pickle forks or notched flat sticks (such as those used in crafts) are excellent tools to handle seedlings. Place the stem in the notch or between the tines and gently lift the plant by the leaves.

4. Loosen the germination media around the seedling before lifting it out. This prevents excessive damage to the roots which may slow growth.

5. Pull each seedling apart from its neighbors before planting. Don't worry if all the germination media comes off the roots. As long as some of the roots are intact, each plant should survive.

6. Pot-up each seedling individually to allow the best growth and shaping of the new plant. Plastic bathroom cups work well as the first pots.

7. Seedlings don't require special soil mixes. Your regular potting mix will work fine as long as the soil particles are not too large in size.

8. Water the seedlings in with a warm spray or mist to help settle the roots into the soil mix.

9. Newly potted seedlings should be grown in covered containers until the roots are well established.

10. Fertilize the seedlings with a weak balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20. Variegated seedlings may benefit from a higher nitrogen number until they have enough chlorophyll or green areas to support their early growth.

11. Keep newly potted seedlings close to the lights to stimulate early growth.

Q: *How long can seedlings survive in the germination media without being potted up?*

A: If the seedlings are watered and occasionally fertilized, they may survive for several months without being separated. The longer they remain crowded, however, the more distorted the early growth will be and the longer it will take for the seedling to show proper shape and form.
I sometimes pot up my seedlings at intervals as space becomes available. The first plants may be blooming before I move the last group of seedlings out of the germination media. This gives me the advantage of evaluating the cross to see if growing out more seedlings will be worth the space.

Q: *How should I select seedlings from a cross to pot up if I don't have enough space to grow all of them?*

A: I'd recommend growing out as many seedlings from a cross as you have space (and most hybridizers **never** have enough space for all the babies). If you must choose, select seedlings that show robust growth, healthy foliage, or good symmetry. If you are after plants with certain genetic traits such as variegated leaves, ruffled foliage, or red leaf backing, these traits may be visible in the seedlings and can be selected for

directly. If I am not selecting for a trait that is visible in the early seedlings, I like to pot up a random mixture of the seedlings to get a representative sample from the cross. I'm always afraid that the seedling I **didn't** choose will be the one with the most promising traits, so sometimes I take a poor looking seedling just to be safe.

Q: *Is it possible to combine fantasy and raspberry edges in the same flower?*

A: Yes, plants such as 'Rob's Mad Cat' and 'Linda Bee' are examples of fantasy flowers that also have a raspberry edge. As both traits are genetic dominants, this combination is easy to breed for. Cross a fantasy plant with a parent with good raspberry edges to produce offspring with both traits. For extra interest, use a parent that also shows geneva edges. This should give offspring with fantasy, geneva and raspberry edges all in the same flower.

Q: *My first cross produced six to eight different colors in the seedlings. How was this possible?*

A: Welcome to hybridization! One of the joys of this work is the large number of different kinds of offspring that can be produced by a cross. By giving so many colors, I suspect that what you really have is a number of different shades of the same color such as pale pink, medium pink, and dark pink. This is caused by a color dilution gene that regulates the quantity of the pigment produced. The gene shows incomplete dominance and when present, dilutes the color of the flowers. One dose of the gene gives the medium shades and two doses gives very pale flower colors. The recessive of the gene (no dilution) gives the darkest shades such as dark pink or very dark blue flowers.

The parents in your cross must have each contained one dose of the dilution gene. This would result in all combinations of shades in the offspring, giving a large number of apparent "colors" in your results.

Growing Variegated African Violets

by Adelle Johnson

Q: *What different care is required for growing variegated African violets?*

A: The method of growing both plain, green-leafed violets and variegated-leafed varieties is the same, except the variegated type will lose their variegation and turn all green if temperatures are too high for too long a period of time. High summer temperatures can cause a problem, but once cooler temperatures return, most varieties will variegate again. There are four types of variegation—crown, "Tommie Lou," mosaic, and spontaneous.

Crown variegation is in the center of the plant and is usually entirely cream, yellow, or pink, while the outer leaves can be entirely green. Crown variegation is more stable than spontaneous variegation and is easily reproduced by leaf cuttings. But like all variegated violets, it is influenced by air temperatures and by the amount of nitrogen the plant receives.

"Tommie Lou" variegation is the most popular type. It is quite distinctive, having a white leaf edge and more solid variegation in the leaf. It seems to be less affected by temperature and high-nitrogen fertilizers than crown variegation. Other common colors of variegation are cream, pink, beige, and yellow shades.

Mosaic variegation is scattered evenly over the whole leaf surface, and this is the most stable of all types of variegation. It is not affected by high temperatures or nitrogen content. This type of variegation was introduced many years ago, but very few plants of this type have been hybridized. We see two very good examples of mosaic variegation occasionally in African violet shows—'Emperor' and 'Lillian Jarrett', and a few hybridized by Ethel Champion.

When separating young plantlets from their mother leaf you may find them lacking enough green color to survive. They should be watered with fish emulsion or a fertilizer high in nitrogen to produce chlorophyll. When the plants are well-established, you can use an all-purpose fertilizer such as 20-20-20 to encourage healthy leaves and a symmetrical rosette. To bring about the most intense leaf coloration while stimulating flowering, you can use Peters® 5-50-17, which is a fertilizer developed especially for variegated-foliage plants.

I grow quite a few variegated violets on the lower shelves of my plant stands. They are individually wicked and fed the same as my other violets. The plants are approximately 7 to 8 inches from the top of the plant to the light bulb. By keeping the variegated varieties on the bottom shelves where it is a it cooler, I have had no problems, even in the hot summer months.

From African Violet Leaves
Publication of the Illinois AVS, Inc

For Beginners

Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Despite the pleasure their great beauty gives us, African violets can be very time-consuming. It seems like there are always plants that need attention. It isn't unusual for an attentive violet grower to spend one or two full days a week working with plants. Most of that work is pure joy--working in soil, handling plants, noting special qualities of certain varieties. Time flies. But one task is rarely fun. Housekeeping.

It is easy to neglect housekeeping tasks in favor of the more delightful parts of African violet horticulture, but it isn't wise. Failure to keep a growing area clean now can result in disaster later. On top of that, visitors to your plant area may see the dirt and chaos before they take notice of your pride and joy. You've got a reputation to keep!

Every Day Tasks

The secret to having perfect plants is to remove all imperfections. Any time you work with your violets, you should be removing any aging or yellowed leaves. These leaves are no longer producing much energy for the rest of the plant, and could even be drawing energy away from the other leaves. Moving a leaf from side to side will usually cause it to pop off right next to the main stalk. If there is a stub left, prod it loose with a finger tip or blunt instrument. Similarly, remove all dead blossoms as they fade and remove the entire stem when the final flower begins to go. Again the side-to-side motion is very effective in removing the stem completely. Withering stubs or leaves, as well as dead or dying blossoms, can serve as entryways into your plants for many pathogens, including fungi, bacteria and viruses.

Take time to keep the sides of pots wiped clean and the shelves free of spilled soil and other debris. Many of the nuisance pests (those that irritate but usually don't damage plants), like fungus gnats and springtails, depend on decaying organic matter for their food. This is also where they tend to lay eggs, especially in moist shaded areas beneath pots or below shelves. In most homes, sweeping the floor is a normal routine. If your plant room doesn't get swept or vacuumed often, you may be providing a nice breeding ground for these pests.

Keeping your growing area as clean as possible also helps to reduce the amount of dust in the air. African violets do need baths occasionally, but with cleaner air, those baths will be needed less frequently. Clean foliage is more capable of using sunlight, resulting in more efficient photosynthesis, which will give you healthier, sturdier plants.

Clean up spills. Puddles of water can ruin surfaces. Replacing or refinishing surfaces could be a huge task, easily avoided by prompt wipe-ups. Spills may also promote certain insects and pests. Be especially careful in cleaning up messes involving chemical solutions like fungicides and insecticides. Some pesticide residues have long-lasting effects, so they need to be cleaned up carefully and thoroughly to protect yourself and others as well as your pets. Some chemicals, like malathion, have a corrosive effect on certain plastics. Don't be careless when using these products!

Empty the garbage. It is a bad habit to throw plant waste into the garbage and then allow it to stand in the plant room for days and weeks on end. Bacteria and fungi, as well as pests, thrive on this trash. If it is a very short distance from the garbage can to the plants, serious outbreaks can occur when the trash is left to stand. Wash the trash can with a bleach solution or other disinfectant occasionally, especially when you are dealing with some disease problem. If you use a trash can liner, close the bag before removing it from the can. Avoid bouncing the bag on the ground in the plant area to get more garbage in...this can force spores, insects, or whatever, into the air and create worse problems.

Keep yourself clean. If you have been gardening outside, wash thoroughly and change clothes before working with your violets. One of the easiest methods of transportation for tiny insects is hitch-hiking on your hands and clothing. Your pets are also good carriers. If you have animals who spend part of their time outside, as much as possible they should kept away from your African violets.

Be aware. A watchful eye for questionable changes in your plants should help you recognize if some problem is occurring. Treat your plants promptly with appropriate measures. Quick disposal may check the problem entirely.

Repotting Sanitation

Whenever violets are repotted, there will always be some degree of mess. It may even be part of the fun. Cleaning up at the end of a repotting day is usually a simple and obvious task. But it is important to use good sanitation methods throughout the day while you are doing the repotting.

Do not reuse pots or stakes unles they have been sanitized.

Soaking used pots in a solution of bleach water overnight will make them safe to use again. Remove any crust, usually resulting from a buildup of fertlizer salts, that has accumulated on pot rims before reusing the pots.

Do not reuse potting mix! Discarded potting medium can be used to condition outside flower beds, but it should not be reused for other violets. Always use fresh potting mix from bags that have no holes torn in them. Be especially careful if your supplies have to be stored outside. Torn bags of soil can be contaminated by insects and diseases in these outdoor areas. It's a harsh world out there! A little caution here may prevent huge headaches later.

Keep tools clean and dry. A dirty tool can expose your plant to any pathogens that could be carried on that tool. If you suspect that you have a problem with fungus or bacteria, tools should be wiped or dipped with a solution of either bleach, Lysol, or Physan 20. If you suspect you may have a virus present, our advisors recommend immersing tools in a solution of Physan (one tablespoon to a gallon of water) for ten to fifteen minutes. Clean tools will not heal sick plants, but they will prevent the further spread of disease.

Separate newly acquired plants from older plants, preferably in a different room. Also, if you keep your potting area somewhat separate from your growing area, you will be able to work with new plants, while at the same time protecting older plants from exposure to unknown problems. Always be suspicious of new plants for a few months. One of our favorite violet growers reacted with horror when she discovered after a club show that her gorgeous plants had soil mealy bugs. These had been moved about the show and had probably dispersed baby mealy bugs on just about anything unlucky enough to be beneath the plants as they were moved. She called her fellow club members and everyone treated their plants immediately. Not everyone will be so aware, honest, or thorough in protecting you from disaster.

Spring (Maybe Fall?) Cleaning

At least once a year, it is wise to do a very thorough cleaning of your plant area. We find that our "growing season" usually ends in June. That is when most of our shows are done and we've made it through the busy selling seasons of Easter and Mother's Day. So that is when we have the fewest plants on the shelves. It is the perfect time to clean.

Shelves need to emptied and scrubbed thoroughly, top and bottom, with a sanitizing solution. We usually use a bleach solution, but others prefer Physan 20 or Lysol. Wall and window surfaces near the shelves should also be wiped, as well as any fluorescent light fixtures.

At the same time, wash all plant trays, saucers or reservoirs. If you use a constant-water method, thoroughly clean all parts of that system. Be sure to use an algaecide that will prevent a rapid return of that nuisance. Remove the mineral buildup that forms along the sides of trays.

Change air filters frequently and have your heating/cooling system checked to be sure that it is running efficiently with no gas leaks. You may wish to have air ducts cleaned to eliminate dust and pathogens, since clean air is healthier for both you and your plants.

Check fluorescent lights for aging tubes. Replace those that need it, and label new tubes with the current date. Be careful to replace only one tube in a unit at a time. Two new tubes can give off too much light, causing foliage to bleach (lose its deep green color). Also, inspect your electric timers, which are especially notorious for wearing out without notice. We depend on them to keep lights turned on and off on schedule, but a stuck timer can bathe your violets in twenty-four-hour-a-day light, resulting in tight center growth and bleached foliage.

Dispose of chemicals that are no longer needed, that are now too old, or that have labels that are no longer readable. Be sure to follow the rules for proper disposal in your community.

Scrub floors, or clean carpets, with a disinfectant solution as well. It is not hard to figure out that this area is especially vulnerable to contamination.

After all that hard work is done, clean the plants remaining in your collection. Throw out any plants that look suspicious (or hopeless), or treat them for their problem before putting them back on the clean shelves. Throw away plants that are just taking up space. Keep the ones your really enjoy (not that old stringy philodendron in the back corner or that weird thing your neighbor gave you that is uglier than ever). Leave plenty of air space between plants to allow them to grow without crowding.

This is a good time to repot all the plants you plan to keep. If any violets were in big pots (six inch or broader) for show, you may wish to move them back into smaller pots and remove some of the rows of older leaves. Bury exposed necks by trimming the root systems to allow the plants to be set deeper in their pots. Move growing young plants into larger pots if needed. Be sure to remove all discarded soil, leaves, pots, etc. from the growing room promptly.

Go through and update your records and make any notes that will be helpful to you as you continue to grow varieties on hand. If you've never kept any records, develop a system that works for you. When you go to buy new plants, you'll be less likely to overload on certain colors or to duplicate specific varieties. Make notes on what you'd like to find or purchase, and set some goals for your collection.

Also be sure that you've kept your membership dues paid for this organization or for your local clubs. They do some housecleaning too!

Control Yourself

We cannot stress enough the importance of staying in control over your hobby. Do not let it get out of control, and do not let it take control over you. It is really important to grow only as many African violets as you can take good care of. We all have to recognize our limits--some of us wish we had more space, and many of us wish we had more time. If you try to grow too many violets, you can easily become discouraged when you find you just can't keep up with them all. Small messes just become bigger ones.

Sometimes when faced with some sort of major disruption in your personal life, you might be better off to scale back your violet collection until you're back to smooth sailing again. How much better to have fewer plants that are truly beautiful, well-kept, and giving you pleasure, than to have way too many plants that don't really look so good!

Cleanliness Is Next To Godliness

A clean growing area can be a little piece of heaven. When everything is clean, disease-and-pest-free, and well-organized you can really enjoy your African violets. Your friends will be impressed, and may even be anxious to share in your hobby. Clean space so easily seems to find its way back to being messy, but the effort to keep it always tidy can really pay off. It is much harder (and more expensive) to fight well-developed infestations of bugs and diseases than it is to prevent or allay the problems with good sanitation.

Stay with it. Your mother would be proud!

Registration Report

Iris Keating
149 Loretto Ct.
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs $1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00. Registration of the plant is $5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then $4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Darryl Hoover - Fullerton, CA

***CALIFORNIA SUNSET** (8303) 12/6/95 (D. Hoover) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. Variegated green and white, plain, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

Reinhold Holtkamp - Nashville, TN

***OPTIMARA® AFFECTION** (8304) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single light pink ruffled star. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® ALABAMA III** (8305) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white ruffled/blue center, edge. Medium green, plain, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® ALASKA II** (8306) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled/blue center, edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® CENTENNIAL** (8307) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single pale pink large ruffled star. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® DEN HAAG** (8308) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single blue frilled. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, serrated. **Large**

***OPTIMARA® DEVOTION** (8309) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single purple. Variegated green and cream, plain, heart-shaped, serrated. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® FRIENDSHIP** (8310) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single dark lilac frilled/darker center, band; white edge. Variegated light green and cream, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® GAUGUIN** (8311) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white star/dark lilac patches. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® GLACIER II** (8312) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white sparkle, frilled. Light-medium green, pointed, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Compact standard**

***OPTIMARA® GRENADA II** (8313) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single light blue/variable white. Dark green, plain, pointed, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® HAWAII II** (8314) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble purple-blue star/white ruffled edge. Medium-dark green, plain, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® HIROSHIGE** (8315) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/light blue patches. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® IDAHO II** (8316) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single purple-blue/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. Space baby. **Compact standard**

***OPTIMARA® KEEPSAKE** (8317) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single lilac/darker center. Variegated green and cream, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® LANAI II** (8318) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright purple-red/white edge. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® LEONARDO DAVINCI** (8319) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/vivid purple-red patches. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

***OPTIMARA® LITTLE CROW** (8320) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Double white and purple-blue. Light-medium green, plain, pointed. glossy, hairy. **Semiminiature**

***OPTIMARA® LITTLE OMAHA** (8321) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/purple-blue patches. Medium green, plain, pointed, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***OPTIMARA® LITTLE PUEBLO** (8322) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Double dark burgundy. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

*OPTIMARA® LITTLE SEMINOLE (8323) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double pink/silver edge. Dark green, pointed, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

*OPTIMARA® LITTLE SENECA (8324) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble bright pink/white edge. Dark green, pointed, glossy, hairy, wavy/red back. **Semiminiature**

*OPTIMARA® LITTLE SIOUX (8325) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble light blue. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Semiminiature**

*OPTIMARA® MADRID (8326) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright burgundy star/white edge. Dark green, plain, pointed, hairy/red back. **Large**

*OPTIMARA® MICHELANGELO (8327) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/purple-blue patches. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® MODESTY (8328) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single dark-blue. Variegated green and cream, variable pink, heart-shaped, hairy, wavy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® MONET (8329) 12/14/95 Holtkamp) Single white/purple-blue patches. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® NEW HAMPSHIRE II (8330) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble burgundy-red frilled/darker center. Medium-dark green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy/red back. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® NORTH DAKOTA II (8331) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white and blue/purple-blue center, white edge. Light-medium green, plain, glossy, serrated. Space baby. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® O'KEEFE (8332)12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/variable purple-blue edge. Medium green, pointed, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® PARIS (8333) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Double purple/white edge. Dark green, pointed, hairy/red back. **Large**

*OPTIMARA® PICASSO (8334) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single pink/purple-blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® REMBRANDT (8335) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single pink ruffled star/purple-blue fantasy. Light green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® TENNESSEE II (8336) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white large ruffled star/purple-blue center, edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® TRADITION (8337) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright pink/darker eye. Variegated green and cream, variable pink, plain, pointed, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*OPTIMARA® VAN GOGH (8338) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/dark lilac patches. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® BETTY II (8339) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled/variable purple-blue edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, serrated. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® CARMEN (8340) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single blue. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® CLEMENTINE (8341) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single light blue ruffled star. Dark green, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® DOLLY II (8342) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white/purple frilled edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® ELLEN II (8343) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright pink wavy/red-pink center. Medium green, plain, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® ERIKA (8344) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Semidouble pink/darker upper petals, band; white edge. Dark green, plain, hairy/red back. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® HOLLY (8345) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single blue. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Compact standard**

*RHAPSODIE® MARILYN II (8346) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled/purple-blue center, edge. Medium green, plain, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® MICHIKO (8347) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single light blue/white overlay. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® NATALIE (8348) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single blue ruffled star. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy/red back. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® NATASHA (8349) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single burgundy frilled/darker center, wide white edge. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® PATRICIA (8350) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single dark red-lilac frilled/darker eye. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® REBECCA (8351) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single medium blue. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® ROSALIE (8352) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/light pink patches. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® STEPHANIE (8353) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single medium blue. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*RHAPSODIE® TERESSA (8354) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright pink ruffled star. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

NAME CHANGES

RHAPSODIE® JOYCE (7498) has been changed to **RHAPSODIE® EMILIE.**

RHAPSODIE® LISA (7499) has been changed to **RHAPSODIE® FENJA.**

ATLANTA
CONVENTION UPDATES

Ann Miller, Convention Director

If you haven't yet registered for the 50th Annual Convention in Atlanta, it's not too late. The late registration fee is $40 and there is plenty of space left for tours, meals and presentations, so go back to the January AVM, pull out page A-13 of the lavender pages, fill it out, attach your check and mail it today.

If you don't like or can not eat the chosen entree for the meal functions please feel free to request a substitute. Please notify our AVSA office now! Substitutions must be given to the caterer in advance. No substitutions can be made the day of the meal.

Seating for large meal functions is done by the convention committee. Those who register early are given seats closest to the head table **when possible**. The Judges Breakfast on Saturday is open to all AVSA members. The Wednesday Board Luncheon is open to spouses.

Presentations are open to all registered conventioneers at no additional charge. Please note, that the Growers Forum (formerly the Beginners Forum) has been moved to Thursday night from Saturday morning. This year we will have a special presentation from Carter Coleman who represents the Tanzania Wildlife Fund. He will show slides and inform us about the regeneration of the Saintpaulia habitat in Tanzania.

Tour tickets can be purchased at registration, until the night before the respective tour, if seats or space are available.

The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia Hotel is nestled in the lush tranquil, wooded surroundings of Ravinia Park. It has a waterfall which originates in the hotel lobby, cascading through the piano lounge and hotel restaurants into the featured gardens of the park.

There are four restaurants. "Wickers" offers fine dining and brunch on Sunday. "Cafe Ravinia" is open 6:00 am to 10:30 pm offering a full service menu. "Ivories" is a live music lounge. The DELI is a take out delicatessen with all the goodies a deli is famous for.

The hotel offers a Health Club open 6:00 am to 11:00 pm every day with a jogging trail through the garden/ravine grounds. Surprise!! all rooms have ironing boards with irons and hair dryers. Another surprise! our contract with the hotel guarantees free self parking for all AVSA guests registered in the convention hotel. If you encounter any problems with the hotel, please contact me in my room or leave a message for me at convention registration.

A Future Conventions Meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday in the convention directors suite for the purpose of providing information to Affiliates interested in hosting an AVSA convention.

This year we will have a delegation of 30 Japanese African Violet growers attending our convention. We are planning a special presentation on pests by Dr. Cole and a translated version of the New Introduction Luncheon for them. Please say hello and help make them welcome to our convention and country.

The Annual meeting is at 2:30 pm on Saturday. You must be present at the meeting to qualify for the free convention registrations and the free hotel night. American Airlines is not offering the free airline ticket this year.

Springtime in Atlanta

With the average temperature in the 80's during the day and 70's at night, packing will be easy as you visit Atlanta. Lightweight clothing will be ideal with only a sweater or jacket for some air-conditioned places. Comfort is the most important aspect as well as good walking shoes as you go on the tours or (one more time) around the commercial salesroom. A collapsible umbrella will guarantee to keep the rain away from the Sunny South. Be sure to leave room in your suitcase for the favors you will receive at the luncheon and dinners. You may win one of the centerpieces. And most important is room for all those plants you must have from our commercials.

REMEMBER: Don't forget to pack your **costume** for the Gone With The Wind Character Contest and your beautiful African Violet plants to enter in the show.

If there is a specific service or attraction you are interested in, call me, Kathy Spissman, at 770-939-5289 (after 6pm please) and I will be glad to help.

SPRINGTIME IN ATLANTA IS HERE AND WAITING FOR YOU

ATLANTA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday May 19

3:00 pm Convention Registration Opens

Monday May 20

8:30 am Tour 1 Callaway Gardens
8:30 am Tour 2 Historic Atlanta
6:30 pm President's Receptions for Board of Directors

Tuesday May 21

8:30 am Tour 3 Atlanta Botanical Gardens
8:30 am Tour 4 "Driving Miss Daisy"
2:00 pm Committee Meetings begin
6:15 pm Tour 5 Evening BBQ & Lazer Show Stone Mountain

Wednesday May 22

7:30 am Judging School
8:30 am Tour 6 Callaway Gardens
8:30 am Tour 7 Mountain and Panhandlers of Dahlonega
9:00 am Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 n Board of Directors Luncheon
6:30 pm Tour 8 Dinner at "Rays on the River"

Thursday May 23

7:00 am Teachers Breakfast
8:30 am Tour 9 Mid 19th Century Mansions
8:30 am Tour 10 Georgia Botanical Gardens, Winery
9:00 am Show Room Entries Begins
9:00 am Sales Room Opens
5:00 pm Future Conventions Meeting
6:15 pm Presentation 1 Slides "Will the African Violet Survive in the Wild?"
7:00 pm Presentation 2 "Growers Forum"
8:00 pm Social Hour, Slides & "It Brings Back Memories" Contest

Friday May 24

7:00 am Commercial Members Breakfast
9:00 am Sales Room Open
9:00 am Show Judging Begins
9:30 am Presentations 3 and 4
1:00 pm Presentations 5 and 6
3:00 pm Presentations 7, 8 and 9
5:30 pm Opening Reception
6:30 pm Opening Dinner "Road to Tara" and Gone with the Wind Contest and Show Awards
9:30 pm Show Opens

Saturday May 25

7:15 am Judges Breakfast
7:30 am Show Room open to photographers "only"
9:00 am Sales Open
9:00 am Presentation 10 and 11
12:00 n New Introductions Luncheon Slides
2:30 pm Agricultural Officials available
5:30 pm President's Reception
6:45 pm Grande Finale Dinner -- Golden Years with Violets
9:45 pm Show room opens
10:30 pm Entry Check outs begins

Sunday May 26

9:00 am Board of Directors Meeting

The latest and final schedule will be in your Souvenir book in the packet you will receive at registration check in. Be sure to check the registration area bulletin board for last minute changes.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS FOR ATLANTA CONVENTION

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Standard Trailer	$10.00	Virginia Moulder
Best Miniature	$25.00	St. Louis Judges Council
Best Vintage Violet	$20.00	Emilie Savage
Best Streptocarpus	$25.00	AV Society of Montrose

Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Division

Lemon Cookie	$10.00	Hortense & Ray Pittman
Little Pro	$10.00	Hortense & Ray Pittman
Precious Pink	$10.00	Hortense & Ray Pittman

Other Awards - Amateur Division

$100.00 Donated by
Tara AV Club

$50.00 Donated by

Georgia AV Judges Council
Upper Pinellas AV Society

$25.00 Donated by

High Hopes Violet Club of S. Atlanta
Jefferson AV Association
North Texas AV Judges Council
Middle Georgia AV Society
Aloha Rhodes
Toronto AV Society
Ventura County AV Society
North Star AV Council

$20.00 Donated by

Acree Creations
Dandy Enterprises
Alma Hummer

$15.00 Donated by

Richmond AV Society

$10.00 Donated

First Saintpaulia Society
Richard & Anne Nicholas
Anne Stewart (2 awards)
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674

It doesn't rain enough in California but today we are lucky, it's raining. While the East Coast worries about the weather, I worry about the Vintage Violets, our older friends, slipping away into obscurity. Do you have one, or do you want one? I'm here to help anyway I can. Deloris called from Texas saying she had Gala. Thank you very much Deloris, every little bit helps. Call me, write me or just send it pony express, if you have an old friend that you would like to share. I have at my fingertips over four thousand names if you are looking for that special plant to re-introduce into your collection.

Some of the names on my current AVSA MOST WANTED go all the way back the first Master Variety List. Now that's really old. Hopefully someone out there still grows them.

AVSA MOST WANTED LIST

Brass Band, Parker
Bryte Glitter, Elkin
Bryte Sensation, Elkin
Bryte Tips, Elkin
Carribbean Ice, Sorano
Copper Tips, Granger?
Coral Cascade, Lyon
Coral Reef, Tinari
Creole Royal, Sisk
Cyndy, unknown (or Cindy, a semiminiature from Russell?)
Daisy Doll, Eyerdom
Eileen, Donald
Fredettes' Sugar Blues, Fredette
Geneva Rose, Lyon
Granger's Swiss Ballet, Eyerdom
Hanka Chief, Lyon
Holly Dolly, Lyon
Holly Peach, Lyon
Inky Pink, Lyon
Interlude, Eyerdom
Jennifer, Tinari
Joy Pink, Lyon
Little Maroon, Lyon
Lucky Stripe, Russell
Maroon Frost, unknown
Merry Pink, Lyon
Moonlight Mural, unknown
Optimara Hawaii, Holtkamp
Optimara Pennsylvania, Holtkamp
Orchid Beauty, Odom
Orchid Ripples, Baker
Penguin, unknown
Pink Beauty, Brockner
Pink Girl, Baxter
Pistachio, Fredette
Sequoia, Frathel
Snow Flakes, Easterbrook
Spangles, Lorenzen
Stormy Night, Sherer
Sunday Morning, Reed
Tribute, Tinari
Triple Threat, Lyon
Whirlaway Sport, Lyon

Shows & Judges

Bill Foster
3610 Gray Dr.
Mesquite, TX 75150

Well, convention time is here! I hope to see many of you in a couple of weeks at our Golden Anniversary Celebration. I have talked with Barbara and Jack Stringer, the friends I told you about in January, and they will be our guests at one of the banquets. Not only that, we have them advertising for us. I sent a copy of the African Violet Magazine to them and they have been showing it to their friends and Barbara has been showing it to her coworkers at IBM. Thanks, Barb and Jack, for pushing AVSA.

Do you belong to a Judges Council? If so, what do you do at your meetings? I am a charter member of the North Texas AV Judges Council which has been in existence for over 20 years. Through the years we have tried to use these meetings to help us become better judges. There have been times, though, when we would seem to fall into a pattern that would fit a regular African violet club. We would have programs on how to grow African violets or how to create a design. A group of judges should already know these things! Their programs should be on matters concerning judging. At the beginning of 1995 our new president, Virginia Linson, and program chair, Glendel Dixon, decided to try to make every program one that would, at least for this group, bring about more consistency in judging. For this to work it would require open and frank discussions and participation from all the judges. Everyone must listen carefully to all opinions WITHOUT letting their feelings get hurt. Try to remember that these programs are to help us become more consistent judges and not to offend anyone! Here are some programs that you might consider for your council...they worked for us!

Have a judge from each club compile a list of things that might be considered "questionable judging" at their show. Merge the lists and prepare questions. Distribute different questions to panels and give the panels time to discuss their questions and arrive at a solution. Allow a spokesman from each panel to present their question or questions and solutions to the group. Invite opinions from the rest of the group and keep working on the question until arriving at a solution that meets with the approval of a majority of the judges. The other three programs for the year were on judging different types of design. Generally, there seems to be more inconsistency in judging design than in horticulture. One of the programs was an exhibit of a hanging plant arrangement and a hanging flower arrangement. Another was on exhibits of different types of container gardens, and yet, another was on exhibits of a standard plant arrangement and a small flower arrangement. Each of the program presenters would reveal the theme and name the plants and materials used and divide the group into panels. After the exhibits were judged a spokesperson from each panel gave a full report on the score of the exhibit and where and why points were deducted. I don't know of any of the "exhibitors" who were offended as a result of the judging. I wasn't. The exhibitors sometimes purposely had flaws in their exhibit to test the ability of the judges. I think this council gained from these programs. Maybe yours would, too.

My next column will give you a report of convention activities concerning "showing & judging".

"It Brings Back Memories" Contest

HOW DOES IT WORK?
Wear or bring an item which brings back memories of a past AVSA Convention and convince judges to vote for your item.

WHEN?
Beginning Thursday night, May 23, during the "Let Me Tell You About My Violets" Forum and the Social Hour & Slides.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners at the Saturday annual meeting.

WHO ARE THE JUDGES?
Everyone! Everyone registered gets one vote. A ballot will be included in your registration packet. Deposit your ballot in the Ballot Box at Convention Registration by 11 am Saturday.

WHAT IS THE PRIZE?
It's a surprise! 1 for men and 1 for women.

SO!!!!
Start campaigning Thursday evening (not earlier) and keep it up until Saturday at 11:00 am.

Ann Miller
Convention Director

A Closer Look

David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

HILL COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLETS & NURSERY

KEN FROBOESE

Owner Ken Froboese displays two sales plants that will soon brighten someone's home.

The slogan says it all: Thousands of African Violets and a Whole Lot More. In just nine words buyers are told what to expect in the little town of Boerne, Texas, just 22 miles northwest of San Antonio, Texas.

A thriving nursery is busy in the springtime. A successful nursery is very busy and more hectic during the warm days of spring. Fortunately for my wife and I the weather had turned cold and nasty for our visit. The chilling rain caused the landscapers and gardeners to stay home which freed owner Ken Froboese to spend time with me for an interview and photographs.

Ken is well known to many African violet growers. Texas growers know Ken's competitive spirit and his office walls covered with blue ribbons and rosettes attest to his success. A member of two San Antonio African violet clubs, Ken's busy schedule keeps him from participating as he would like, but he hopes to stay active as much as he can.

Growing orchids in the beginning some 25 years ago prompted a desire for a greenhouse at the rear of Ken's house. Before long he started to grow African violets which eventually crowded out the orchids and prompted Ken to enlarge the greenhouse. With many young plants growing into mature specimens, Ken started to sell his plants. The name Hill Country African Violets was chosen to reflect this hilly region of Texas known as the Hill Country.

The business was somewhat of an extension of Ken's hobby as his profession was in the banking industry. As the banking business began to down-size Ken took an option of early retirement about six years ago and determined to grow his hobby into a sustaining enterprise. That he has done.

Ken's first move was to diversify. Gradually he moved into a line of nursery plants - bedding plants and vegetables, then shrubs and trees. All the while he grew and sold African violets and other gesneriads. The development of nearby upscale neighborhoods was a boon for the newly established nursery.

One such development called The Dominion is home to many well known personalities in business, sports and the entertainment industry. With lots beginning at $100,000 money is not a problem if fresh plants are wanted for a party or special occasion. Likewise, landscaping is often approached from a price-is-no-object point of view.

Since 1990, growth for Ken has been almost explosive. Nine greenhouses have been added to the original one. The additional structures contain a variety of potted plants,

The African violet greenhouse where thousands are grown under natural and fluorescent light. All plants are wicked and placed on large metal trays

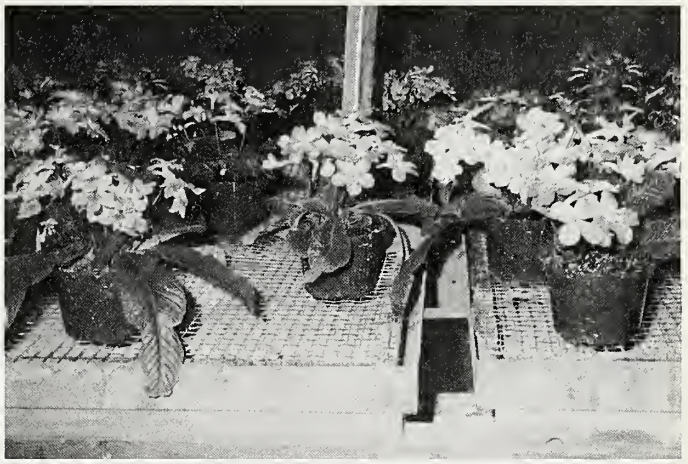
bedding plants, orchids, started vegetables such as tomatoes and cabbage and miniature roses.

Ken is warm, outgoing and affable. His warm personality makes him a natural salesman, one friend told me. Without being pushy or overbearing, Ken's desire to help and be of service meets with customer approval. A happy customer is likely to: 1) Come back, and 2) Tell someone of the nice man who was helpful.

A physically demanding schedule is also part of Ken's success. The posted hours of business of 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. seven days a week ensures that people will almost always find an open door. That's 70 hours a week, but Ken's work often goes on until midnight. Then, four to five hours of sleep before rising to begin the new day. So much unseen work has to be done before the public can come in - transplanting, potting, grooming, stocking shelves and on it goes.

Although his business has almost passed his African violets by, Ken loves them dearly. He stocks a complete inventory of growing supplies and aids and will give his best advice when asked. His show plants are a source of special pride.

Ken's involvement with AVSA included a



Ken also carries a line of gesneriads including these mixed streptocarpus which are wick-watered.

three year term on the Board of Directors and appointments to committee positions. He brought a banker's dignity and fiscal knowledge to the Board. He hopes to return to that arena when time permits.

Fifteen employees aid Ken and his sister as they look to the challenges of the future. Perhaps selling by mail will be a possibility. Maybe more greenhouses or expansion to other sites.

Ken's fellow Texans have a deep admiration for his business sense and hard work. As I prepared for this interview I spoke with others who had nothing but praise for this man.

If you are in the San Antonio area, please take the time for the twenty-two mile drive on I-10 to visit, and hope for rain so he can take time to talk violets with you.

Ken's billboard is seen by thousands of motorists traveling on Interstate 10 near San Antonio, Texas

"And the winners are..."

Al & Cathy Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

If you write to us, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply. Only the "AND THE WINNERS ARE..." form should be mailed to us. Tally Time forms must be mailed to Anna Jean Landgren.

Your Show Chairman is responsible for filling out our form. If you read a mistake in our column, have your Show Chairman mail us a correction. We also need the name of the organization and which issue the incorrect information appeared in.

Correction: AV STUDY CLUB OF HOUSTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, This Bud's Mine, Rodeo Country, **Roy Hall**.

MID-ATLANTIC AVS, PA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lyon's Northern Star, Traces, Royal Flair; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sidney Sorano**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Sno Fun, Dean's Plum Peacock; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Alice Grundy**. 2nd BestAVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Sugar Cube, Rob's Whodunit; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Miniature: Rob's June Bug, **Ed Bradford**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Barbara Peterson**. Best Gesneriad: *Pentadenia Orientandina*, **Fay Wagman**. Best Design, Design Sweepstakes, **Georgene Albrecht**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Senior Judges

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and Sept. 1, 1996. Send request to: Frances King, 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104. Include check for $3.50 payable to AVSA. Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination for grading must be returned before Oct. 1, 1996.

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for $3.50 (payable to AVSA) to Mrs. King. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook:

1) list of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2) signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and
3) verification of three blue ribbons earned.

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

Applications postmarked after Sept. 1, 1996 will be returned and application may be made next year. Completed exams postmarked after Oct. 1, 1996 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after Oct. 1, 1996) for grading and return of examination.

OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Big Sky Violets
10678 Schoolhouse Lane
Moiese, MT 59824
406/644-2296

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Pleasant Hill African Violets
Route 1, Box 73
Brenham, TX 77833
409/836-9736

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724

Optimara is a registered trademark of Hermann Holtkamp, K.G., Germany. Holtkamp Greenhouses USA, Nashville, Tennessee 37207

WORTH REPEATING...

Growing AV's with Wick Method & Natural Light

by Doris Ann Jolley
Batesville, MS

African violet enthusiasts are like mothers with their baby pictures - "have you seen my latest?" Although my pictures aren't as good as seeing the real plant, I had just photographed three of my "latest pride and joys" when the last issue of the African Violet Magazine arrived. To my delight, there was a request for articles and PICTURES! I could show off my "latest", but then a sobering thought crossed my mind. Would award-winning, expert growers frown on my "window sill" violets? My violets might not win any show ribbons, but there are people who might be interested in how I grow violets in natural light for my own pleasure (and anyone else who can be influenced).

Violets grown in natural light can be very beautiful and grow quite well if they are given the proper growing conditions. For example, one of my best growers is a plant I've had for over ten years. It is 'Edna Fischer' which I purchased from Fischer Greenhouses. (The plant was named for Mr. Fischer's mother.) When photographed, the plant was 19 inches across and had over fifty blossoms. The other two plants I photographed were 'Molokai' and 'Eve'. Both plants were 12 inches across. Molokai had nearly fifty blossoms and Eve, a younger plant, had just a few blossoms, however, it was the nearly 3 inch blossoms which were impressive to me.

POTS

I use plastic pots. For my minis I use 2 1/4" and 3" pots. My standards are in 4 1/2" pots. I have found that the pot should be suited to the stem of the plant. The larger the stem, the larger the pot. When repotting, I keep the minis in the same size pot. I scrape accumulations, in between repottings, off the rims as these accumulations will eventually destroy leaves. I let my plants tell me when to repot.

WICK

My wicks are nylon. It can be purchased or nylon hose can be cut into wick-sized strips. The wick should be long enough for half of it to be in the soil and half in the water reservoir. If using hose wicks, cut the strip at least 1/4 to 1/2 inches wide, depending upon the size of the hole in your soil pot

SOIL

The wick method requires a light, porous soil so that the roots will receive enough oxygen. I order my soil ready-mixed from a commercial grower, but in the past have mixed my own using a recipe received at a Memphis AV show.

4 cups AV soil
2 cups vermiculite (coarse)
2 cups perlite

Keep the unused soil in a closed container so that it will remain insect free.

WATER

I use rain water. I have a rain barrel, but other containers can serve as collectors of water. If treated water must be used, put water in open containers and let it sit for at least 24 hours, so harmful additives can evaporate. The longer water is allowed to sit, the better.

RESERVOIRS

I use the Reservoir Wick Pot from a commercial grower and plastic water reservoirs from another commercial grower. For my minis, I use the 8 and 16 oz. reservoirs. For larger plants, I use the 32 oz. reservoirs and the Reservoir Wick Pot. The size of the reservoir is determined by the size of the pot that will rest upon it.

FERTILIZER

For better blossoms and growth, I use Peter's 12-36-14 for non-variegated plants and Peter's 5-50-17 for variegated plants. I mix SoilWash into the fertilized mixture and use this mixture every time I water my plants.

INSECTICIDES

I use Benomyl (1 1/2 tsp. per gallon of water) as a

spray for mildew or mold on the plants or the soil, and Kelthane (1/4 tsp. per quart of water) as a spray for everything else. I'm careful to isolate new plants for at least two weeks or until I am certain there is no infestation.

LIGHT

My plants are on plastic shelves in front of my windows or on the window sill itself. In summer, I hang sheer curtains over the east and southwest windows to keep the violets from burning. Those on the window sills sometimes have to be moved, depending on the violet and the temperature. My violets are in north, southwest and east windows.

One problem I do have with plants is their tendency to be 'leggy' with long stems which stand up instead of lying flat. This, of course, indicates insufficient light. In my opinion, sufficient light is the biggest problem for 'window sill' AV growers.

GENERAL

My violets don't like drafts so I turn overhead vents away from them. I keep my home temperature between 65 and 80 degrees with the lower temperatures at night. I use a soft-bristled paint brush to dust off the violet leaves. I use leaf supports so that my plants won't hug the pot.

Sometimes, my soil dries out in spite of the wick being in water. I add water from the top to soak the soil. I have found two causes for the soil drying out; the wick is too small for the plant, or the plant needs new soil.

In direct opposition to the above condition, on repeated days of rain, with little or no sunshine, I have had violets take up too much water and become limp. Removing the wick from the water until the leaves firm up usually solves this problem.

Plants with light green leaves tolerate less direct light than dark green leaves, and variegated leaves require more direct light to stay variegated, but will burn if the light is too direct. Light can also affect the color of a blossom.

Finally, my advice to beginners or more experienced growers is to read the African Violet magazine and other good books on raising African violets. As with most advice, tailor it to your own environment and let experience be a good teacher. There are many things to try, but they all won't work for you.

May/June 1992 AVM

How HIGH (low) Can You Go?

by Leslie Cox
Newbury Park, CA

It has been one year since I began raising violets in my greenhouse. I have certainly learned a lot. The year started off cool but mild; the heat cables I put in the tented stands instead of a heater kept the temperatures about sixty degrees or above during the winter months.

Then came summertime. The heat cables were unplugged and two fans were set up. Used in combination with misting the violets several times a day and hosing down the greenhouse floor, even though the temperatures went as high as ninety-five degrees, the violets just shrugged their leaves and enjoyed it. (I did leave the plastic tents open and covered the greenhouse with shadecloth).

Now time has come full circle to the violets second winter in the greenhouse. With it has come a new element the violets had not yet dealt with - winter frosts. How would they and the heat cables hold up when nights dropped into the thirties - or lower?

Just recently, I got my answer. We literally broke records for low temperatures in Ventura County - into the twenties. Remembering what the wineries in Napa Valley where I used to live did to protect the vineyards during hard frosts, I set up fans in both the plastic tents and inside the greenhouse itself to keep the air circulating as well as using the heat cables. Temperatures inside the tented stands dropped down to forty-nine degrees one night, but the violets not only came through these extremely cold nights just fine, one is BLOOMING and another has buds. Are African violets tougher than we think - or just very adaptable?

Showcase

Ness' Peppermint Stick

Hybridizer: ***Don Ness***

Rhapsodie Clementine

Hybridizer: ***Holtkamp***

Rob's Sugar Cube

Hybridizer:
Ralph Robinson

Rob's Seduction

Hybridizer:
Ralph Robinson

AFRICAN VIOLETS and the WINDS OF CHANGE

by Dr. Jon C. Lovett
Dept. of Environmental Economics
and Environmental Management
University of York
York YO1 5DD
England

In November, the north-east monsoon begins to blow southwards from Oman in the western Indian Ocean. By December, the winds reach Mombasa and the island of Zanzibar. This is the wind that carried dhows from Arabia to the eastern coast of Africa, and with them trade and prosperity for some, slavery and impoverishment for others. Kilwa, just north of present day Mozambique, is as about as far south as it was possible to sail in a season, and like Zanzibar, it flourished and grew. By April, the winds have changed, so the dhows returned, either sailing at Musim, the build up of the monsoon, or Demani in September before the monsoon retraces its endless path. Trade and botany are intertwined together by our need for plants for food and medicines, but if Ibn al-Baytar, the famous Islamic thirteenth century botanist and physician, knew of the African violet from the centuries old trade with the violet's natural home on the eastern African coast, we have no record of it. Nor perhaps would we expect him to be interested, for the African violet has no known medicinal use. By the fifteenth century, technology had overcome dependence on the monsoon's solar driven cycle. The Portuguese had arrived in ships that could beat against the wind, bent on dominating Indian Ocean trade. Kilwa's prosperity waxed and waned, declining from its former glory to the ruins that we see today. Mombasa rose, fell and rose again. Zanzibar alternately battled and parleyed with the Portuguese, anxious to retain dominance in trade with the African mainland. Trade and fortune are not lonely bedfellows, and technological superiority was not confined to the Portuguese: British and French ships were also plying the Mozambique Channel. The scene was set, the play was about to commence, and Africa was the stage.

In 1823 the Mazuri governors of Mombasa, initially appointed by Oman, called for protection of the British flag. Captain W.F. Owen of the Royal Navy obliged and announced an unauthorized declaration of a British protectorate over Mombasa. As we shall see later, he was not alone in his zeal to build empires. But the dreaded French were about and back at home, harrowing reports of the what was later viewed as the 'scarlet thread' of the slave trade were influencing British policy. Although by 1826 British protection of Mombasa was withdrawn, fear of the French meant that a web of diplomacy had been woven with Oman for influence over the eastern African coast. British policy was to have global economic domination through trade and treaty rather than costly colonies, and to facilitate this, representatives were placed in foreign parts. One of these was Sir John Kirk, who, for sixteen years, was the British vice-consul in Zanzibar. At the age of 25, Kirk's first experience of Africa was as physician-botanist with Livingstone's 1858-63 Zambesi expedition. In 1870 he returned, and as an agent of one of the most powerful nations on Earth, he carried great authority. Nonetheless, he did not lose his interest in botany, and in April 1884 collected a plant from the coast opposite Zanzibar and sent it to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew with the note "A lovely blue flower that will quite equal the Sultani Balsam (*Impatiens walleriana*) if I can get it home". The material sent by Kirk was too fragmentary to formally describe, and he did not succeed in his ambition to send back a living plant, but this was the first collection of an African violet to reach Europe. Perhaps the reason why he failed to recollect the violet was the extraordinary events of the next few months.

The year 1884 also saw the arrival on the coast opposite Zanzibar of a 28 year old German adventurer named Carl Peters. In March 1884 he had formed a private Society for German Colonization. In November he and three others traveled to eastern Africa and spent three weeks obtaining signed treaties from villages in the hinterland. The treaties gave them a territorial claim that covered some 140,000 square kilometers. Although these initial actions

were completely unofficial, the German Imperial Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, worried by British and French economic domination of African trade, encouraged Peters to set up a company, the German East African Company, which made 18 expeditions to extend its territory and the area was declared a German protectorate in 1885. In 1886 an Anglo-German agreement fixed the northern border, and in 1887 the British East Africa association was formed to invest in what was later to become Kenya. In 1890, Zanzibar became a British Protectorate. Within a very short space of time the map of Africa had changed beyond all recognition, the winds of change had become a hurricane.

The next African violet to come to scientific notice came from what had recently become the British sphere of influence, collected by the Rev. W.E. Taylor in 1887 in the Giryama and Tsimba mountains of what is now southeast Kenya. It was sent to the British Museum in London, but as with Kirk's collection, it was too incomplete to describe. Events were moving fast south of the border, revolt against German authority had been ruthlessly suppressed and in 1891 the imperial government took over the Company's administrative functions. It was a Regional Commissioner, Baron Walter von Saint Paul, who finally succeeded in sending complete material of an African violet to his father, Hofmarschal Baron Ulrich von Saint Paul, a President of the Dendrological Society of Germany, who passed it on to Hermann Wendland, director of the Botanical Garden in Hannover. The plant then received a name, commemorating both its violet flowers and its collector: *Saintpaulia ionantha*. As with Sir John Kirk before him, Baron St. Paul Sr. recognized the commercial potential of the African violet and sold his stock to Ernst Benary, a nurseryman in Erfurt. By 1894 seeds and plants were offered for sale, 25 years later they were introduced commercially into the U.S.A. by Walter Armacost of Los Angeles. The rest is, as they say, history. There are now 21 described wild species and an estimated 40,000 named cultivars with a world retail trade thought to be in the region of 100 millions dollars annually. Meanwhile, back in the African violet's home territory, German East Africa changed hands following defeat in the First World War to be administered by Britain as Tanganyika under a League of Nations mandate. In February 1960, Harold Macmillan, the British Prime Minister, addressing the South African parliament talked of the winds of change blowing through Africa that were to herald a reversal of the European scramble for territory in the 1890s. Kenya, which had formally become a British colony in 1905, gained self governance in June 1963, as did Zanzibar in the same month. Tanganyika became independent in 1961 and then, in a reversal of centuries of political fortunes, the mainland reached out and annexed Zanzibar after a brief and bloody revolution in 1964 to form the modern state of Tanzania. The global political monsoon had changed direction.

Will YOU Be The Lucky Winner?

The membership & Promotion Committee will once again sponsor a Promotion Table at our 50th Anniversary Convention in Atlanta, GA.

Members and guests attending this golden anniversary celebration will have the opportunity to buy chances for a Lifetime Membership, which includes a certificate of enrollment signed by our President and a membership wallet card that entitles the winner to all benefits and priveleges of our society.

AVSA gift memberships for special occasions and annual memberships can also be purchased.

Chances will also be available on a large 3′ x 5′ flag designed for this very special occasion, one of a kind! The flag features the African violet motif shown on the African violet stamp and includes the AVSA name and the date of origin of our society 1946 - 1996.

Come...take a chance...join the fun and be a part of our 50th Golden Anniversary Celebration.

GOOD LUCK. . . . . SEE YOU IN ATLANTA, GA

Membership & Promotion Committee
Anne Tinari, Chairman

Try Something DIFFERENT

by Lola Rossi
San Mateo, CA

Most homes in California, where I reside, do not have basements where plants can be grown. I am unwilling to grow and display my plants on what I consider to be unattractive light stands, in plain plastic pots. I long ago decided that my plants needed to be grown in attractive containers that would blend in and add to the decor of my home. I started experimenting with various attractive ceramic pots, many of which do not have drainage. I found that African violets love to be pot bound and even full sized standard plants can grow happily in fairly small ceramic baskets. As long as I am careful not to overwater, they do not mind not having drainage in the least. I always add a little charcoal at the bottom of the pots which do not have drainage to prevent the soil from becoming sour and this seems to work fine.

I do grow plants in plain plastic pots, but when they are in bloom, I often place these plain pots into other containers, such as a large basket. I can change the plants often and whenever one set of plants finishes blooming, I exchange them with other pots which are in bloom. This basket is displayed on an end table in my living room and looks quite attractive when filled with as many as five (depending on size of the blooming plants) African violet plants. On the opposite side of my sofa, on another end table, I display a large, white ceramic swan, currently containing a very, very large plant of an old variety named Cochise. This plant has such lovely, large serrated, red-backed leaves that even when it is not in bloom, it has become a conversation piece in my living room. Guests frequently stop to examine this lovely plant, marveling at its size and how healthy it always looks. Both end tables receive filtered sunlight in the afternoon from a western exposure and lamp light from about 7 to 11 P.M. in the evenings. They love the warmth of this exposure, without getting sunburned!

I have several lattice-work ceramic pots from Spain and these are always filled with violets grown in plain, plastic pots, then placed in the ceramic pots when in bloom.

Another favorite way I grow violets is in large glass bowls, fish bowls, large brandy snifters, etc. The glass bowls work best when you plant them with miniatures or semi-miniatures. The brandy snifters can be planted with either miniatures or standard violets - they love the compact environment and soon spread out their leaves. The glass container seems to give the roots more light and encourages the plant to grow

Photo Credit: William Bailey

and bloom. I currently have a plant of an old mini variety, Very Cherry, growing in a large glass bowl. It is rapidly filling the bowl and is almost constantly in bloom.

I grow violets in one of my bedrooms which has two large corner windows facing north and east. It contains a corner wrought iron stand with four large shelves. I also grow them in the master bedroom sitting room on a wrought iron stand in front of a 6' sliding door window, and in four windows in my living/dining rooms which receive filtered afternoon sunlight from the west and north. The plants from my bedroom and sitting rooms receive more natural sunlight and therefore bloom more often and more heavily. When candidates are in bloom, I often move them to the living/dining rooms so that my guests can enjoy them.

Try something different - you will be surprised at how well your plants will do and how attractive they will look. Just be careful not to overwater, add charcoal to pots with no drainage and they should do well for you!

Project Violet: *Magazine Articles*

by Kyle Coleman
Fort Worth, Texas

Writing a magazine article is not so difficult if you are willing to spend a little time following three simple steps. The first step is choosing the topic, the second step is creating the draft, and the third step is polishing the draft. These three steps will help you share your ideas with other violet growers.

I believe choosing the topic is the most fun part of writing an article. Most people select topics that reflect their personal interests and expertise in African violets, violet clubs, or gesneriads. What are your favorite violets? Do you have better luck with certain types? How does your method of growing differ from everyone else's? Everyone loves to read about other growers' experiences and plant collections. Violet and/or horticulture books, magazines, brochures, or lectures may help you select a topic. There are so many to choose from! The African Violet Society of America's Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges provides many excellent ideas:

- African violet culture
- African violet grooming
- African violet propagation
- Shows and preparing plants
- Exhibits and construction of designs
- Judging horticulture or design exhibits
- Other African violet information
- Affiliate meetings, shows, and events

After selecting a topic, many people have a tough time getting their articles written. I always start with research -- I read articles from the African Violet Magazine. Reading such articles helps me understand what people think about my topic, and they are generally good examples for format and style. Also, reading other articles may help you identify and understand your audience, your violet friends. Next, I jot down the specific information that I wish to include in my article. From this short list of subtopics, I create an outline to define the structure and flow of my article. After completing my outline, I completely finish my first draft in one sitting. Most articles will be short enough to be completed in a couple of hours -- I have found that working from an outline shortens draft time considerably! My favorite skeletal outline may be modified as needed and is shown below.

I. Introduction of Topic
  A. Subtopic 1
  B. Subtopic 2
  C. Subtopic 3

II. Subtopic 1
  A. Thought 1
  B. Thought 2
  C. Thought 3

III. Subtopic 2
  A. Thought 1
  B. Thought 2
  C. Thought 3

IV. Subtopic 3
  A. Thought 1
  B. Thought 2
  C. Thought 3

V. Summary

Polishing the draft is the last step. For my articles, I generally go through three stages: first round of editing, cooling, and final round of editing. For the first round of editing, I look for grammar, spelling, and reference mistakes. Is my grammar correct? Are the names of violets and people correct? (A word processor that checks spelling is extremely useful.) I also look for reference errors, such as mentioning the wrong hybridizer for a specific cultivar. After the first round of editing, I put the draft away and let it cool for a few days, then I start the final round of editing. During this round, I look for clarity and readability. Will my readers understand what I'm saying? Do my thoughts flow smoothly? Do I communicate my points effectively?

Writing a magazine article is not as difficult as it sounds. If you choose a topic that you're familiar with, create a draft from your outline, and polish the draft, you'll be an author in no time! I'm sure the AVM Editor is looking forward to reading your fine articles.

PILGRIM *Violets*

by Frank Martin
Seattle, WA

Nearly fifty years ago in downtown Atlanta, GA, traffic police were called out to deal with unexpected numbers of visitors crowding into the city for the nation's first African Violet show. The plants had only been introduced to the American public ten years before, in 1936, when Armacost and Royston of Los Angeles began offering their original ten hybrids, with Blue Boy heading the list. The world was in a state of great change, and violets were no exception. By the time of the Atlanta show, in November of 1946, amateur and professional hybridizing had resulted in numerous varieties, and likewise in quite a bit of confusion over names and naming rights, which the newborn African Violet Society of America set about to correct. AVSA will celebrate its fiftieth birthday on November 8th, as it recalls that first show in Atlanta and the 8,000 participants who attended.

In those premier days of violeting, AVSA's annual dues were $3.00, and local clubs conducted their meetings with party games, poetry, and even group songs that reflected the endearing innocence and religious awe with which they regarded their beloved plants. The clubs, often comprised entirely of women, were a source of friendship and inspiration, as the members shared the values of their faith as well as their love of beauty.

The cultural tips they shared ranged in scope from the use of chemicals, which today would be handled only by men in protective spacesuits, to such simple home remedies as mothballs and hot water. For the hot water treatment, which was said to be quite effective against cyclamen mites, the plant was immersed for ten minutes in water at precisely 110° F. This exact temperature had to be maintained in order to kill the mites without killing the plant. It was a drastic treatment, and recommended only for strong, hardy plants with desperate infestations. An alternative treatment consisted of placing the ailing plant in a cardboard box or paper bag with twelve to eighteen mothballs, making sure the soil was on the dry side to prevent corrosive gas from forming, then letting it sit overnight. The mothballs could cause leaf burn but in flake form they were said to be a good cure, if placed under the pot, for what one author called "crawling things in soil".

Despite the wide range of innovative cures, or perhaps due to some of them, the life expectancy of the African violet in those days averaged only about three years. Saintpaulias in Great Britain, that land of gardeners, fared even worse than in America, due to the lack of central heating in postwar Britain. Many British homes were still heated by fireplace or space heater even into the late 1950's, and the violet often had to be treated as an annual when winter temperatures in the home dipped below 45° F.

Many plants at that time were grown in windowsills, but artificial lighting was also being used. Due to the large amounts of red light put out by these early setups, the natural ranginess of the older varieties was increased, resulting in even larger, longer foliage. Soil was often gleaned from the outdoors and augmented with leaf mold, peat moss, and sheep or steer manure. Bottom watering was favored in order to avoid the danger of crown rot with such a heavy soil mix.

Those who saw the violet world grow from the original blue singles will remember such big names as Pink Beauty, White Lady, and Orchid Beauty, all with foliage very similar to that of Blue Boy but each with a blossom color which was a first for its time. The novelty of a pink violet created quite a sensation at garden clubs and bridge clubs, not to mention the local chapters of AVSA. Some enthusiasts even spoke of the possibility of a yellow violet.

As our African violets prepare to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their ancestors' arrival in America, a little thanksgiving is in order for all the blessings of beauty, variety, and cheer they bring us. Just as in those pilgrim years of violets, the world is again in a period of great change. Fifty years from now, who knows what lovely creations future growers may be celebrating at their violet thanksgiving?

Endearing Foote Petals Remembered

by Anne Tinari

Grace Foote

We mourn the death of GRACE FOOTE, a very dear friend and beloved editor of our AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. She was employed as editor of our magazine July 14, 1963 and remained our editor for more than 20 years.

Grace was introduced to the Board of Directors at the convention in Dallas, Texas in April 1965. It was at this convention I first met Grace. We needed no formal introduction; as editor of "The Question Box Column" we had exchanged frequent correspondence.

We all looked forward to her presence at the annual convention. She was always prepared to give an accounting of the magazine and her editorship at the yearly board meeting. It was a joy and privilege to work with her. She was known to many of us as "Gracie." I recall many nights spent grooming award winning specimen African violets for her picture taking sessions for the magazine that drifted into the wee hours of the morning.

Grace was a dedicated, skillful and most unusual editor, always ready and willing to give generously of her time and talent in the interest of our society. She was endowed with an easy manner of correcting mistakes with a quick apology when needed. Her cooperation and concern for all contributors made her editorship outstanding.

Grace worked diligently to encourage commercial members to take pictures of their newest cultivars and send her slides to use on the magazine cover and for added color pages in the AVM.

We will always remember her column "A Foote On The Violet Path." This was her delightful, informative, individual way of keeping the membership informed of timely problems and activities.

She was the recipient of a One Year Honorary Membership in 1966, Continuing Service Award in 1976, Honorary Life Award in 1982 and Distinguished Service Award in 1986. She became Editor Emeritus in 1985 and in 1988 our society bestowed on her our highest award by placing her name in the AVSA HALL OF FAME.

Rest in Peace, dear friend, you have enriched our lives with your memorable friendship. We are so fortunate to have known you and have all benefited from your devotion to our AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY to which you contributed dignified grace and beauty that will live forever.

ANNE TINARI

Fond Memories of Grace Foote

Gus Becker, Printer

Grace Foote became associated with AVSA in 1963. Shortly after the 1963 AVSA convention, newly elected President Maisie Yakie, of Port Arthur, Texas returned home with a new duty.

She was to hire an Editor for the African Violet Magazine and produce the next issue. Maisie also had to hire a new printer; for both had been released at the last called board meeting.

Being from Port Arthur, she went to the local newspaper, THE PORT ARTHUR NEWS and spoke with Grace Foote to see if she knew anyone who would be interested, or if she might be interested in the part time job. Grace was the woman's editor of the NEWS and was interested in being editor of the magazine but admitted she knew absolutely nothing about African violets. Maisie assured Grace that she grew African violets and would be happy to work with her.

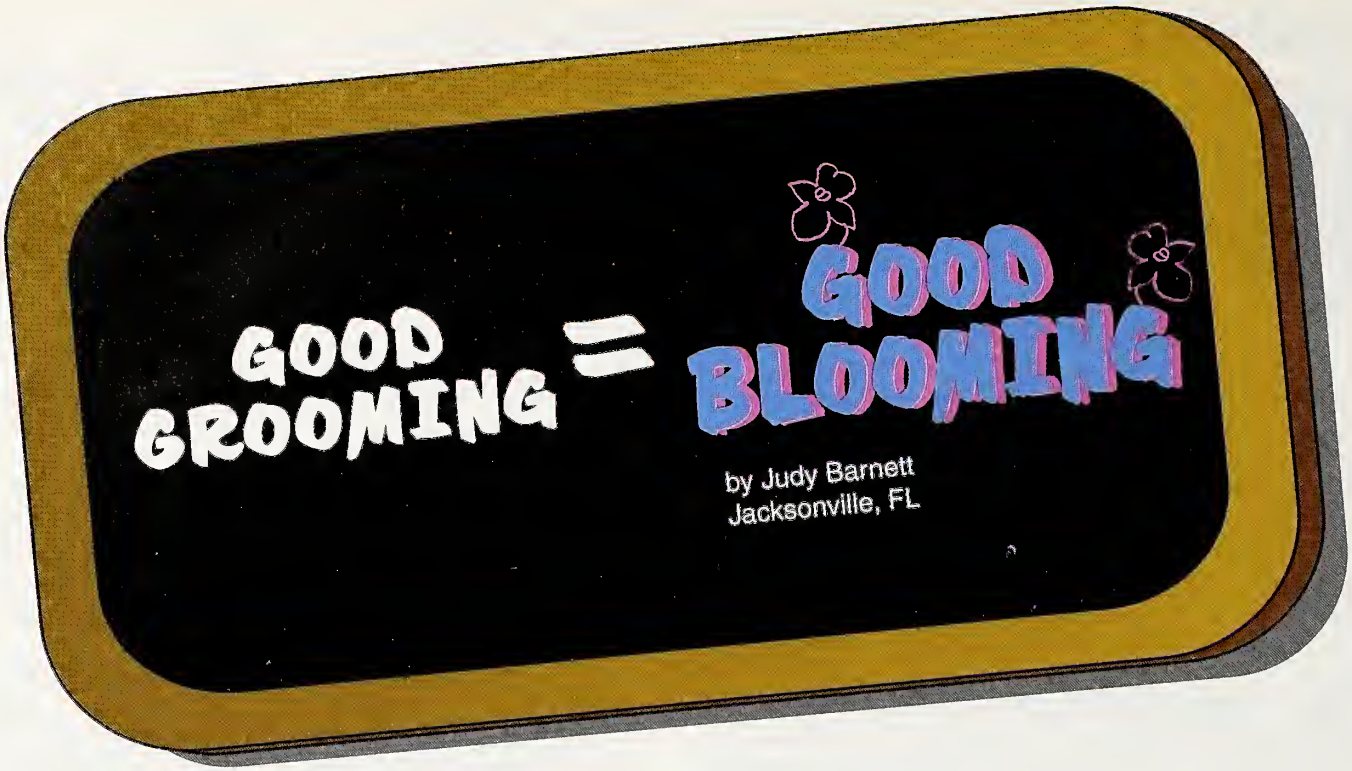
Maisie had a cardboard box full of copy that had not been used, as well as copy from several of the contributing editors who were active members of the African Violet Society. Grace was given this box. Maisie took one of her beautiful plants, put it in the center of a Christmas wreath, on a colored cloth, and had a professional photographer make a color print for the cover. That first issue was made up mostly of club news and dates.

I was awarded the printing contract and started working with Grace. The first issue was written, edited and printed on time, a feat of which Grace was always proud. We worked together for 24 years and met every deadline. Grace was such an outstanding and outgoing person, not once in the 24 years did we ever have an unpleasant moment.

Grace Foote was a public figure in Port Arthur, an active member of the Lions Club and many other organizations. She never seemed tire and always did nice things for others.

Grace attended all the board meetings, providing information about the magazine and its contents. She began many innovations in the magazine which are still used today, and had a meeting with the reporters at each convention.

Grace was greatly loved and appreciated in her home town, and by the African Violet Society of America. She and her husband Henry attended 24 conventions with my wife Maxine and me. We shared many happy memories together. Grace loved AVSA and the AVSA loved Grace all the days of her beautiful life.



Your plant's best protection is your shadow on them . . . daily. We're growing violets at a wonderful time. There are over 8,000 varieties registered with AVSA, with delightful hybrids being developed each year. Disease treatments, pest prevention and culture procedures are being improved/discovered/developed constantly.

Here's one of my favorite tips, which I read recently in some violet-related publication I eagerly devoured: put your show plants together on a shelf that is the easiest to see and reach. Work on that shelf first. Then when you're interrupted - as we always are - you will at least have groomed your most important plants. This reduces your plant-related stress level.

I've always likened my violets to children: they need moderate temperature, constant feed, water, good circulation of air and 8 hours sleep (darkness) daily. We all know you can't say to your child, "Honey, take care of yourself this week, I love you, but I'm too busy!" Some people think plants like to be talked to, but it's not the talking they respond to, it's the carbon dioxide your breath spreads on them. As a matter of fact, some evenings when I arrive home from work, I can HEAR my chlorophyll children calling out: "Hi Mom,we're fine, welcome home!" Admittedly, most of the time they're probably saying "Help me! Help me!"

When you pick up a plant - to turn around, water, whatever the reason - take this opportunity to GROOM IT! Use grooming tools that are clean. Pluck out any blossoms and leaves that are past their prime, to save your plant's energy. Check for suckers and necks.

A sucker is "the beginning of a new plant which forms near the base of the plant or in the axil where the petiole joins the main plant stem and which has developed four leaves." A sucker on a non-trailing violet will cause it to be automatically disqualified from a show. Minis and semi-minis tend to sucker more readily if they are not happy. Suckers look like bloom stalks, until they get 4 leaves, at which time they need to be removed to assure symmetry. Violets grown under lights tend to sucker less. Using a sucker plucker (a ceramic tool with a curved end for cutting) or pencil point, gently tease it out, taking care to get all of it. If your plant is a bit dry, the leaves are less likely to snap off.

I like to think of suckers as freebie babies. Suckers may be planted as you would a leaf, but you don't have to wait as long for a nice plant..Interestingly, chimeras (called pin-wheel violets) are grown only from suckers or by planting bloom stalks at the junction of the petiole with peduncle.

Callused, scarred, necks are caused by loss of outside, lower leaves as they become old, marred, or discolored. If your plant has a neck, yet isn't ready for a larger pot, remove it from its pot, cut off enough from the bottom so the neck will be below the surface of the soil when you repot it and fill in the top with new soil. The juncture of petioles and trunk should be level with the top of the pot. In this particular area of grooming there are different schools of thought. Some try to disturb the root ball as little as possible, others like to take off some of the soil before replacing in the new pot. Before repotting,

scrape the hard outer surface from the neck so new roots can form easily, without having to force through a crusty trunk.

CLEANING: Clean the leaves and petioles. I like to wash my plant's leaves when needed (particularly before showing) by holding them under tepid, running water using my fingers to gently brush off dust and debris. I love the soft feel of the leaves. The hairy ones feel like a puppy's ear. Then use a natural sponge to dab off most of the moisture, so no droplets are left. The plants need to dry before your lights are turned off. Some people prefer to use a natural hair makeup brush and not wet the leaves. If you prefer this, do it sparingly and gently so violet hairs aren't brushed off or broken.

Minerals and salts leave an unhealthy crust that can burn leaves, so you need to drench the plant every now and then (this is also called leaching), when you see crust accumulating on the soil. Pour a pint of plain, tepid tap water carefully through the soil. Of course we all know not to let water get caught in the crown, and run the risk of crown rot. Crown rot occurs when water can't drain out of the crown (the base of the plant, where the leaves issue from the trunk at the top of the soil).

SYMMETRY: If you have difficulty knowing which leaves to remove to improve symmetry, remember each layer has a 3-leaf growing pattern. Look down at your plant from the top, then look up at it from the bottom. Try putting a leaf support on the plant, then slipping a piece of white paper over the leaf you are uncertain about removing, then look down at it. This will give you a preview of what the removal will look like. Some judges feel show plants need only 3 rows of leaves. Older, outside leaves contribute nothing to the plant and sap the plant's energy. The only time the larger plant will win a higher award is when all other factors are equal. This includes **condition** of leaves, which are difficult to keep perfect on a large plant. Small baby leaves under the outer row of foliage should be removed. They can be snapped off sideways or cut out with a sucker plucker. Using plastic support rings is helpful, to keep leaves from lying on the rim of pot. This helps improve air circulation.

If removal of a leaf leaves a gap, another leaf can be gently moved over to fill the gap by placing a toothpick by it for a few days. If the gap is a large one, the leaf should be moved gradually. Remember, less points are taken off for a slightly marred leaf than for a gap.

POT SIZE: A plant should not be overpotted, underpotted or off-center in its pot. Judges sometimes have rulers! Your plant should not be more than 3 times the diameter of the pot at show time. When potting up, use the next size pot, remember - violets like to be rootbound before producing new leaves and blooms.

I hope some of the above tips I've gleaned from African violet growing friends and many wonderful publications, will help you to win a Best in Show Award. I leave you with this thought: "Tis Love" is an anagram of "Violets" - and isn't that appropriate?! Love of violets has enriched my life immeasurably since I was given my very first violet barely 2 years ago. My fellow members know my attitude towards growing African violets is: "If you're not having fun, you're not doing it right."

Gesneriads are GREAT

by Judy Barnett

What a wondrous family
is the gesneriad;
Its foliage and blooms
are truly myriad.

There are single, doubles,
trailers, minis, and such;
I really love growing them,
so very, very much!

There's plain leaves and frilly,
and variegation, too.
It's hard to choose when you
can only buy a few.

Their blossom shapes and
colors are unbelievable
Not liking them is surely
inconceivable.

Meetings, shows, and
conventions are such fun;
Ribbons and recognition reward
your job well done.

Saintpaulia, Episcia,
and Columnea
Won't thrive and grow
if you're absentia.

They all require your
daily, diligent care.
You truly need to love them
and always be there.

Permission from Gesneriad Journal

Hanging Designs

by Mary Stallings
Ft. Worth, TX

All our designs have a long and interesting history. We just change them around at times to add interest and meet the needs of our way of life. The first hanging designs were called "classic Greek" (600 B.C. - 325 B.C.) and were charactrized by simplicity and form - wreaths and swags were used, not flowers in a vase. Today we consider these to be crafts.

Today we have two classes of Hanging Design in our flower shows:

1. A design created to hang on a solid surface, such as door, wall, easel, or a niche, suspended by a bracket.
2. A free hanging design, incorporating space, and which may have movement. It may hang from a dowell, ceiling, or frame.

Interpretive Flower Arrangement "Violets on the Move"

The Kinetic designs, which are abstract designs, are motorized, mobile, sta-mobile,and stabile. These have motion or implied motion. The mobile is the one of choice with the use of violets. However, it is hard to stage because of the required air-movement necessary for it to be effective.

The hanging design adds great interest in our flower shows as it appears to be suspended in space or moving in space. The designer has the opportunity to use cascading plant material, creating a different look. It can be created a long time before the show.

Considerations of a hanging design:

1. The schedule must state the size of the total space and type such as a niche or frame.
2. The schedule must state if a suspended or moving or designer's choice design is required.
3. Space must be allowed on all 4 sides of the design.
4. If motion is required, the design must be designed to be viewed on all sides.
5. The design must be constructed using all the principles of design.
6. These designs tend to be non-traditional and informal - more modern and creative. Keep it light and airy - do your own thing.
7. Actual balance as well as visual balance is the challenge of these designs. If the design has motion it should move in a slow lazy manner - hypnotically

Interpretive Plant Arrangement "Surprise! Violets in the Sky"

8. Materials used as containers: shells, decorative wood, styofoam of various shapes, large bamboo, or any object you can secure before designing.
9. Monofilament line is good to hang the design. Tie and seal with a drop of super glue and it will not fall.
10. To determine the length of the filament: Wrap around area of suspension, plus 2 lengths, to dowel plus length of wrapping around the dowel TWICE "this stabilizes". This makes a circle, and two hang most containers. Three are needed with some decorative wood.
11. If motion is desired, all the lines will be attached to a swival hook and attached to a short line leading from the dowell.
12. If your design is to hang on a flat surface, be sure to create depth in the front.

These guide lines should help make your designing a happy experience. Use your own creative abilities and your reward will be a blue ribbon. Create a masterpiece.

Read Mrs. Gladys Hudnall's article "AV Designs in Space", AVM 1980, Vol. 3, No. 5.

FOUND: A Solution to a Problem

by Mildred Knorr
Springfield, PA

What to do about declining enrollment in the African Violet Society of Springfield? That was the problem that was plaguing not only our club, but also many other groups of a similar nature. Now that so many women work, they aren't able to join groups that meet during the day. Since our group meets in the morning, we were not able to increase our membership and, in fact, we were losing members as a result of retirement, illness, relocation and all the other usual reasons.

Moreover, many of our members are in their seventies and eighties, so it was becoming increasingly difficult to put on our show each year. Some of our members could no longer work the long hours required to produce our very ambitious annual show at the local mall, nor could they continue to grow the large numbers of violets for entries.

We considered changing our meeting time to the evening, but this was not a workable solution because some of our most knowledgeable and conscientious members no longer drove at night. Car-pooling would not work because our members come from a wide area.

There must be a solution, but what? I decided that the solution might be to organize an evening branch and volunteered to undertake the project.

My first step was to place advertisements announcing the formation of an evening branch in six area newspapers. This was expensive, but worth it, because the response was good.

I arbitrarily chose the first Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. for the meetings. We met for the first three months (April, May, and June, 1995) in my home. I arranged the programs and provided the refreshments. We have excellent violet growers in our morning group and they were the source of our programs.

Beginning last September, we began to meet in the conference room at the Springfield Township Library. This was preferable to meeting in the homes of our members for several reasons:

1: Our members come from a wide geographical area, so a lot of driving would be involved to reach some of the members' homes.

2: Since most of our members work, it would be difficult to rush home and get ready to host a meeting.

3: As our membership grows, we will need more room than some homes may provide.

Much deliberation was given to the manner of organizing our evening group. It would be a branch of the morning group. The officers of the morning group are also the officers of the evening branch. In addition, there is a liaison officer who presides at the evening meetings, plans the programs, organizes the committees and generally oversees the evening branch. The liaison officer must be an active member of the morning group and report to the morning group each month on the activities of the evening branch. She is appointed by the President and is a member of the executive board. Since the evening branch was my idea, I am the liaison officer at the present time.

Monies from both groups go into a common treasury and members from both groups jointly participate in our activities such as the annual violet show. We have added a section to our by-laws, defining the evening branch.

The enthusiastic group of thirteen "violeteers" in our evening branch celebrated their first year as the "Evening Branch" of the African Violet Society of Springfield in April, 1996.

As time goes on, we may find that we will have to modify or change some aspects of the way the evening branch is organized, but this is essentially the format we will keep!

Finally, we have found a solution! As Henry Higgins said in My Fair Lady - "By George, we've got it!"

ASHLEY STEPHENSON

Chief Horticulturist of England's Royal Palace Gardens, retired.

I realized the dream of every English gardener
when I was put in charge of the Royal Palace gardens.

My mission was to further enhance their beauty. That was when
I first used Miracle-Gro. The results it achieved were outstanding.

I'm still using Miracle-Gro, although today,
the only garden I'm enhancing is my own.

Ashley Stephenson

MIRACLE-GRO

Growing the "Warm" Species

by Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

One of the traits that has made African violets such a successful houseplant is that they require the same temperatures we find comfortable in our homes. Many of us maintain our homes at a daytime temperature between 70°F - 80°F with 72°F considered to be the ideal. We frequently lower the temperatures slightly at night but usually don't like temperatures much below 65°F. African violets tend to thrive at these temperatures because they closely match the growing conditions found in some areas of their native habitats in Africa. However, when it comes to growing the African violet species, do all of them require the same growing temperatures as today's cultivars?

Some of the species, especially those that were collected from lower elevations, are from habitats that have a similar temperature range as our homes. While these species are usually successfully grown by most collectors, many homeowners are now lowering the temperatures of their homes in order to conserve energy and lower heating bills. The cooler temperatures can negatively impact the growth of these "warm" requiring species. The purpose of this article is to identify those species that require "warm" conditions so that the grower can move these plants to the warmer places of their growing areas and continue to grow them successfully.

Saintpaulia grandifolia has been one of the most popular species plants in collections and has frequently won the award for best species plant in shows. This species was collected by W.R. Punter in the West Usambara Mountains of Tanzania and was described by B.L. Burtt in 1958. The only thing mentioned about the habitat for this species was that it was found in a steep valley. The elevation of the collection site was not reported; however, this species grows best under warm conditions, suggesting it was found at lower elevations.

The Master List of Species and Cultivars (commonly called the MVL) recognizes two forms of this species. Form #237 is the original species and has small dark blue flowers with up to 20 or more flowers per stalk. Form #299 has slightly larger blooms that are a darker shade of purple than in Form #237. Both forms frequently produce two bloom stalks per leaf axil, giving specimens of this species very high flower counts. The leaves of *S. grandifolia* are large and can measure 4 inches long by 5 inches wide. The leaf blades are very thin, and light green with long flexible petioles. The leaves are serrated, somewhat quilted in texture, and have a pale green reverse. The leaves of Form #299 are more deeply crinkled and quilted than form #237. The growth form of *S. grandifolia* is a single crown and specimens can easily reach 20 inches in diameter, making this species one of the largest of the genus.

S. grandifolia can be grown under the same conditions as those needed for large standard cultivars. This species will enjoy any extra warmth and humidity you can provide, but keep good air circulation around the plant to avoid mildew problems. This species seems to respond well to the same fertilizer treatments used for show plants and can produce over 100-150 blooms on a mature specimen when grown under show conditions.

Most of today's cultivars grow best under warm conditions because they are the descendants of *S. ionantha*. This is the species that the world has generally come to know as "the African violet". This plant was recognized and described as a new species by H. Wendland in 1893. *S. ionantha* has been collected in several places in Tanzania including the Sigi Caves and Cliffs where it grows on rock ledges and among boulders. It is also found in the vicinity of the Amboni caves near Tanga, which may have

been the source of Baron von St. Paul's original find. This species appears to be found near sea level or at other lowland sites, giving it the characteristic of growing well in warm habitats.

The flowers of *S. ionantha* are medium blue and number 4-8 per stalk. The leaves are lightly serrated and are dark green with red reverse. The leaf blades may cup upward and the entire leaf may droop slightly when grown in high temperatures. The plant is usually grown as a single rosette, but it does show some tendency to sucker. This species can be a large grower and may be up to 20 inches in diameter. *S. ionantha* does well in rich soil, but it must have adequate drainage to avoid rot.

There have been a number of different color forms reported for this species including the plant called *Saintpaulia* white *ionantha*. This plant has white flowers with only an occasional trace of blue color. The leaves are medium green with pale green undersides. It requires the same warm growing conditions as the parent species.

One of the trailing species that requires warm growing conditions is *S. magungensis* variety *magungensis*. This plant was collected in the East Usambara Mountains near Magunga, Tanzania and was described by E. Roberts in 1950. The elevation and habitat for the species was not given; however, this species does appear to grow best in warm temperatures, indicating it was collected at lower elevations.

S. magungensis variety *magungensis* has flowers that are blue-violet with darker centers and are usually 2-4 flowers per stalk. They are serrated, round in shape and are approximately 1 inch in diameter. They are medium green with near white reverse and are often cupped downwards. This plant has a trailing growth form, but the internode distances between the leaves are relatively short.

A variety of the species, *S. magungensis* variety *minima*, was described by B.L. Burtt in 1964. It was collected by W.R. Punter from the East Usambara Mountains, on the Mavoera estate near Amani, Tanzania. This variety appears to be a smaller version of the species. It has very tiny, light purple flowers that are borne 1-2 per flower stalk. The leaves are smaller and thinner than the parent species, are lightly serrated, and have a pale green reverse. *S. magungensis* variety *minima* can make a beautiful specimen, but it is somewhat difficult to grow well because it seems to require a higher humidity than other African violets.

The combination of warmth and high humidity is also necessary to get this plant to flower. It will often survive, but not thrive, under home conditions unless attention is given to its needs for warmth and high humidity. It does, however, do very nicely under greenhouse conditions where additional warmth and humidity are more readily available. A species that appears to be becoming more popular in collections is *S. rupicola*. This species was collected by W.R. Punter in 1958 and was described by B.L. Burtt in 1964. It is one of the few that is found in Kenya, rather than Tanzania. The habitat for this species is in the crevices of bare rock at low elevations in the coastal areas. It appears to grow in the most open and exposed areas of all the *Saintpaulia* species. These habitats often have low humidity which may explain why this species is so easy to grow in homes.

The flowers of *S. rupicola* are medium-sized and light blue-violet. They are usually 4 per stalk and are held well above the foliage. The leaves are an elongated heart in shape, shiny, and medium green. They have light green undersides, brownish petioles and have serrated edges. The plant has a single crown that grows slanted rather than upright (an adaptation to growing upright in rock crevices?). It frequently produces suckers, often resulting in multiple crown specimens.

The main concern in growing this species is to provide adequate drainage to avoid rot. It is also more sensitive to damage from pesticide use compared to the other species, and care must be given in treating this plant for pests.

One of the warm growing species whose habitat can be linked to the elevation of its collection is *S. tongwensis*. It was collected by Greenway in 1940 from the Tongwe Mountain in the East Usambaras, Tanzania, and was described as a species by B.L. Burtt in 1947. It was found at elevations of about 2000 feet or lower, growing on gneiss rocks in a forest area. It has been found only on this mountain, and the clearing of the forest for crops has severely threatened this species with extinction.

The flowers of *S. tongwensis* are medium size and light blue in color. They are produced in large quantities with 8-14 flowers per bloom stalk. The blooms seem to be longer lasting than those of other species. The leaves are

very heavy, hairy, longer than wide, and pointed. The leaves usually have a red reverse and may have a paler yellow-green midrib. The plant grows as a single crown and rarely suckers. It may reach a size of 12-15 inches in diameter when mature.

This species is an excellent one to grow in a collection. It does well in warm growing conditions but does not seem particularly sensitive to humidity. It is also one of the most floriferous of the species. A well-grown mature specimen may have 40-60 open blooms at one time. High phosphate fertilizer treatments will often enable the plant to produce two bloom stalks per leaf axil, further increasing the bloom count.

The House of Amani is another plant that grows best in warm conditions It is not currently recognized as a species, but it is listed in the MVL. The source of this plant is unclear, but it may have been first offered by the Amani Plant House in Tanzania, and the name developed from this origin. This plant is very similar to the species *S. ionantha* and there are reasons to suspect that House of Amani is only a form of that species. One reason is that when specimens of the two are placed side by side, it is difficult to differentiate between them. It also seems likely that both plants were collected from the Amani area in Tanzania, suggesting a close relationship between the two.

House of Amani has blue-violet flowers that are produced 3-5 per stalk. The flowers are held up above the foliage but are not especially long-lived. The leaves are dark green, slightly toothed, and pointed. When grown in strong light, the leaves may develop a slight red reverse, but the plant usually shows a green reverse. The plant grows as a single crown rosette and mature specimens can reach 10 inches in diameter.

Saintpaulia Robertson is the most recent species to become available in the United States, although it is not yet listed in the MVL. Unfortunately, the common name has been arranged as if the plant were a true species, but it has yet to be properly described. This plant was collected at an elevation of 540 feet in the Vitengeni River Gorge, Kilifi area, of coastal Kenya by A. Robertson and Q. Luke. This elevation is one of the lowest known for an African violet, so it is not surprising that this plant requires warm growing conditions.

The flowers of *S.* Robertson are medium blue and large, compared to many of the other species. The flowers are slightly cupped and are found 4-6 per stalk. The leaves are thick, much longer than wide, and pointed. They are medium green with a pale green reverse. The petioles of mature leaves often arch, bending the leaf blades downward. This plant usually grows as a single crown and rarely produces suckers.

Sigi Falls is another warm-growing plant that has not been recognized as a separate species, but it is listed in the MVL. The plant was collected from the sides of a waterfall on the Sigi River in the coastal area of Tanzania. The wild plants clung to rock outcrops above the river, but the exact elevation for this species was not listed. It has medium blue flowers that are produced 2-4 per stalk. The leaves are large and almost succulent in thickness. They are hairy, elongated, pointed, are red-backed and often a yellow-green midrib area. The stems are very thick and succulent. The plants have relatively short internodes, making them grow as a weak trailer and forming multiple crowns.

This plant is a slow grower and does well in warm growing conditions. It is a relatively shy bloomer, and success in getting it to flower may be related to increasing the temperature, day length, or humidity.

A good place to grow any of the "warm" species is the top shelf of a plant stand. Warm air rises and usually makes the top shelf several degrees warmer than shelves near the floor. Placing these plants closer to the lights may also raise the temperature around them. Brightly lit windows in bathrooms or kitchens, typically the warmest rooms in our homes, may provide a good habitat for these plants. Natural lighting often produces higher temperatures for plants because the sun's rays are more intense than artificial lighting. These areas may also have high humidity which would benefit plants like *S. magungensis* variety *minima*. If any of the species discussed here have not been growing well in your collection, try moving them to "warmer" areas and see how they respond. If you live in a warm or hot climate, these species may be the ones that would be the best to add to your collection. Knowing the original habitats for the African violet species and then providing these conditions for them should increase your success and enjoyment of these beautiful plants.

Intergenerics

by Dale Martens
2728 Masters Dr.
League City, TX 77573

On Labor Day weekend in 1994 1 looked at my gesneriad collection and decided I would cross every blooming gesneriad with a rhizome to every other blooming gesneriad with a rhizome. A rhizome grows underground at the base of a stem. When the plant goes dormant, the rhizome remains alive. Each rhizome is made up of tiny scales. Believe it or not, each tiny scale can be broken off and will produce its own plant. Gesneriads with rhizomes include the popular Achimines, Eucodonias and

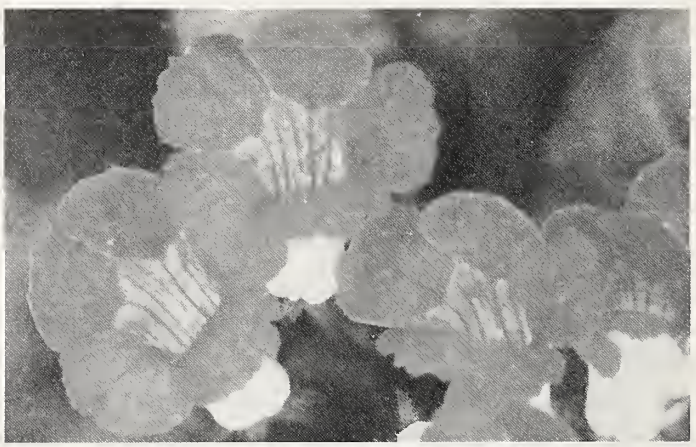
xPhinastema 'California Dreaming'

Kohlerias. Each one of these is considered a genus. Normally you would cross an Achimines with another Achimines. Crossing outside a genus is usually impossible for many reasons including possibly incompatible chromosome counts.

I got lucky. I successfully crossed a Phinaea albolineata, a gesneriad with a rhizome, to another gesneriad with a rhizome called, Diastema comiferum. This cross between two different genera is called an "intergeneric." The parents are quite different in appearance. The Phinaea is quite hairy with medium green leaves that have a stripe down the center of each leaf. The flowers are pure white and bell shaped. The whole plant is less than four inches high. The Diastema has dark green, quilted leaves with a reddish reverse. The blossoms have a tube and the color is a strong reddish orange. The Diastema is a bit larger than the Phinaea and it tends to branch.

My intergeneric is about 3 1/2 inches tall at its first bloom. It is quite bushy and fuzzy. The leaves are very dark green, quilted and serrated. The backs of the leaves, and all stems are maroon. The flowers are held high on strong upright stems. The outer flower tube is snow white and is a striking contrast to the bright, reddish-purple petals. The tube throat is white with many reddish purple stripes. Blooms are three quarters of an inch long and about one half inch wide. The whole plant is bushy and appears to be a heavy bloomer.

In the world of Gesneriads this new plant is a significant genetic break-through. There are no other registered crosses between the two genera Phinaea and Diastema. As the hybridizer I got to name it. I combined the two genera by naming it xPhinastema 'California Dreaming.' The little "x" signifies the intergeneric cross. I will make available rhizomes to the commercial growers who specialize in gesneriads in addition to African violets. By the way, I have actually tried to cross on several occasions a species African violet with another gesneriad called Petrocosmea. Both have fibrous root systems and



xPhinastema 'California Dreaming'

grow in a rosette form. It never worked.

Please note my new Texas address. I look forward to joining the Texas violet and gesneriad clubs. As I look back on my years in Southern California and all the fun I had, I, like my xPhinastema, will be 'California Dreaming.'

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • P.O. Box 38 • Oreland, PA 19075-0038

Donations received from November 20, 1995 - January 20, 1996:

Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH	10.00
Normandy AV Club, St. Louis, MO	10.00
In honor of Mrs. Delpha Everding, a hard working and loyal member of our club for 22 years.	
AVS of Montrose, Montrose, CA	5.00
In loving memory of Dely Uytana	
Hi Hopes AVC, St. Louis, MO	5.00
Candy Souther, Houston, TX	25.00
In memory of my friend Mrs. L.B. Moss, Jr. (Betty)	
Wisconsin Council of AVC, Mequon, WI	10.00
Portland AVS, Portland, OR	25.00
In memory of Lois Brande	
Jean-Louis Villeneuve, Charlesbourg, Quebec	10.00
Jefferson AV Association, Metairie, LA	25.00
Gesneriad AV Club, Arvada, CO	10.00
Michael R. Israel, Louisville, KY	20.00
John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA	1.00
Hattieann Gilbert, Sandys, Bermuda	15.00
Lincoln AVS, Lincoln, NE	25.00
In memory of Sybil Behrens, charter member of Lincoln AVS	
Springfield Chapter of AVS, Springfield, MO	50.00
In memory of Miss Willie M. Marsh, a devoted member for over 45 years	
Viking Violettes of MN, St. Paul, MN	10.00
In memory of Lynn Mayo	
AVS of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK	10.00
AVS of Albany, NY	40.00
In honor of George & Margaret Rodenhausen, for their enormous contributions to our African violet club	
Old Dominion AVS of Northern VA	30.00
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA	25.00
In memory of Grace Fields a very active and devoted member	
Sharon Teitelbaum, Keller, TX	12.00
James T. Kuczma, Sterling Heights, MI	25.00
Christine W. Davis, Harrison, ME	20.00
North Charelston 1st AVS, NC	133.34
In loving memory of Helen McDaniel, our dear friend whose contributions over the past 42 years made our world of African violets so beautiful.	
Geoffrey T. Smith, Rochester, NY	50.00
Mrs. G.E. Harmon, New York, NY	5.00
Maryann B. Flick, Old Saybrook, CT	5.00

AVSA Booster Fund

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OCTOBER 1st - NOVEMBER 30th

Granada Hills AVS, Northridge, CA	$10.00
In memory of our member Hal Garfield	
Mary Anna J. Tully, Wheeling, IL	10.00
John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA	1.00
Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs	10.00
Memphis AVS, Memphis, TN	25.00
Viking Violettes, Little Canada, MN	10.00
In memory of Lynn Mayo	
Scott Ewing, Shrewbury, MA	25.00
James T. Kuczma, Sterling Heights, MI	25.00
North Charleston 1st AVS, N. Charleston, SC	133.33
In fond memory of Helen McDaniel	
A charter member, our President and friend	
Don L. Thornburg, Grass Valley, CA	10.00
Doris E. Schenck, Beloit, WI	10.00
Joseph DeGregorio, Central Valley, NY	25.00
Leticia Potter, North Miami Beach, FL	100.00
Charlotte Wolfe, Ann Arbor, MI	10.00
Maryann B. Flick, Old Saybrook, CT	5.00
Old Dominon AVS of Northern Virginia	30.00
Vivian J. Foye, Baker City, OR	2.00
Nadine Walker, Pahrump, NV	10.00
Joan Hanlon, Belmont, MA	10.00
Carroll R. McCarroll, Los Angeles, CA	25.00
Total	**$486.33**

ONCE a winner, ALWAYS a winner!

by Norah Ottto
Nederland, CO

NOTE: As we try to grow the most worthy show plants possible, occasionally, we just don't have the time, and to our dismay, that once probable winner of Best in Show, now more closely resembles the Beast in Show. Although the actual names of those plants sacrificed by the members of Colorado's Rocky Mountain AV Council are used in the following report of their first Dog Show, no intentional slight to either plant or hybridizer was intended.

Colorado's Rocky Mountain African Violet Council (RMAVC) members have a long and proud history of exhibiting exquisitely-grown, award-winning show plants in beautifully produced shows. Two AVSA Conventions (1979 & 1994) hosted by the RMAVC have shared that tradition with AVSA members from around the world. Therefore, it was exciting when the RMAVC decided to hold its first dog show as its September program. The dog show, although small, had entries in most classes by well-known, award-winning members. The African Violet Society of Denver, Chapter 1 (known for its unusually high number of blue ribbon-winning members) and the respected High Country Judges' Workshop (an affiliate for the study of judging) was particularly well represented. This naturally meant a quality show.

Alice Hann, long-time judge and assistant at The Violet Showcase, won **Worst of Class 1: water-spotted, brown, or halo-edged leaves** with an exquisitely yellowish-leaved specimen of 'Spring Romance.' It showed, in addition to the above, a lovely limp foliage flowing in a particularly asymmetric pattern with one blossom.

Trailers dominated **Class 3: Most Out-of-Shape**. In a close call between two uniquely grown specimens, Cynthia Crater won **Worst of Class** with a splendidly-unshaped 'Glitter Fountain.' Both entries in this class were definitely a breed apart from the standard trailer entries in the annual RMAVC Spring Show and therefore were worthy of note.

The most interesting class to spectators was **Class 5: Dead or Almost Dead**. This hotly contested class was won by RMAVC past-President, Janice Sorensen. Yes, Janice won **Worst of Class** and **Worst in Show** with a beautifully-mummified specimen of 'Jessica,' thus continuing a long time tradition of her club (Chapter 1) in producing winning show plants. 'Jessica,' for those of you unfamiliar with the plant, is a variegated semimini with rose double blooms. Janice nurtured this winning cultivar in a terrarium as it became first totally variegated and then, upon starving to death, nicely mummified to a lovely crisp cream. That the plant didn't rot or blacken is proof of Janice's superior growing techniques. Janice also won **Worst of Class 10: Artistically Curved Neck**. Janice's superb 'Louise Croteau' was a wonderfully-shaped crown centered about 2″ beyond the outer wall of the pot. The splendid "S" curve of its neck, with the saucer of leaves at the end, made for a most unusual and award-winning display.

Karen Anderson, RMAVC VP, won **Runner-Up, Worst in Show** with her 'Ramblin' Stardust,' a wonderfully unsymmetrical, unblooming, unclothed, and unhealthy specimen, in the above described Class 5. Ingrid Little, well-known local episcia expert, proved that she can grow competition African violets as well with a perfect entry of 'Cherokee Trail.' This plant had one limp crown about 2″ in diameter that lay wasted across the 8″ pot in which it was shown. Violetter Newsletter Editor Barbara Liedtke also

entered Class 5 with a brown and desiccated "Sterling Trinket.' All entries were perfect examples of neglect, abuse and imminent death, but were regrettably still alive, so of course the award in this close contest went to Janice's mummified "Jessica."

Marcia Balonis, RMAVC Recording Secretary, won **Class 9: Long, Straight Necks**, with 'Mini Marci.' Her mini not only had a visible neck above ground, but was distinct in that it sported a hidden one as well: the soil was at least 1/3 below the top of the pot. This combined "above-and-below" neck proved a winning combination.

Doris Eckholt, a long-time grower from Fort Collins, won **Worst of Class 11** with 'Cascade.' 'Cascade' was entered in **Class 11: Most Number of Suckers**, and provided a splendid example of the oft-asked question at sales, "why won't my plant flower?"

Karen Anderson, in addition to winning **Runner-Up, Worst in Show**, won **Worst Gesneriad (Class 14)** with *Nematanthus* 'Candy Corn.' When called on to comment on winning her award, Karen confessed that this plant was a particular favorite, having won a blue ribbon five years ago and that consequently she was still growing it in the same pot. Several nice bare woody stems attested to the plant's age.

In the **Un-design Division**, Alice Hann again astounded and delighted the audience with a miniature design entitled "Sunstroke." Picture a tiny 1" desert-brown plastic pot filled with matching rust-colored, barren gravel, out of which appropriately rises a bright and colorful parasol (like the ones you used to see in tropical drinks at resorts) to provide shade for a precious little violet blossom. This lone blossom, on a long, wobbly stalk, is leaning drunkenly outside the safety of its parasol. The flower bobbed its head in full sunlight in a most original presentation.

In conclusion, the dog show was a splendid success. Exhibitors' again maintained the RMAVC's reputation by exhibiting perfectly-grown violets in each category which made for a spectacular show. Hopefully, this will become an annual event.

It was a shame that this outstandingly unusual show was not open to the public.

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Ruth Warren • 1534 Robeson • Fall River, MA 02720

CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH FEBRUARY 1, 1996

Meredith Hall (Memory of Betty Moss)	$25.00
AVSA of Albany	50.00
AVS of South Bay (In lieu of speaker fee)	25.00
Springfield Chapter of AVS (Memory of Willie Marsh)	50.00
Spring Branch AVC (Memory of Betty Moss)	50.00
Spring Branch AVC (Lieu of speakers fee for Gerri Goins of Houston TX)	25.00
African Violet Study Club of Houston (Memory of Betty Moss and speaker fee for Ruth Hickox)	50.00
First AVS of Dallas (Memory of Jim Davenport, son-in-law of Glendel Dixon)	53.00
Mrs. Hamish Bennett	5.00
Lenora & J.C. Munk (Memory of friend Betty Moss)	20.00
Lucille Anderson	10.00
Lois Buschke	25.00
Faye Wieditz	10.00
Maryann Flick	5.00
Helen Handwerk	15.00
Betty Phillips	10.00
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Dave Klukan	5.00
Wilma S. Davis	30.00
Edith Yeager	10.00
Doris Shaw	20.00
Ruby E. Cox	25.00
North Charleston First AVS (Memory of Helen McDaniel)	133.33
James T. Kuczma	25.00
Jeffrey Walsh	10.00
AVS of Greater Tulsa	15.00
Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia	30.00

Members

Central Florida AVS raffled off a chest of table linens and accessories for every holiday of the year. Raffle winner, Judy Partain, with Catherine Boxberger and President Evelyn Briggs.

Jensen Turner of Spartanburg, SC, with his plant, "Phobos". Jensen puts headphones around the pot and gives his plant a dose of classical music.

Three generations of this family are members of the Albuquerque AVC, NM. (l. to r.) Glenna Delle Kimzey, Christina Ann Vehar, age 10, Jana Lee Vehar.

New officers of the Southern California Council: (l. to r.) Hans Inpijn, Jacquie Eisenhut, Pauline Cook, Edward Hoefer, Mary and Don Blancher

Summer is Favorite Time for Those Pesky 'Mites'

by Barbara Pershing
Cedar Falls, IA

It seems like everytime a grower gets a bit complacent and everything is growing well 'the other shoe falls!' Those darn "mites" seem to come out of the woodwork. They are also not talked about. It's almost like "bad-breath" or "yellow waxy build-up on the floor." The commercials debate whether you should tell your best friend...!! Well, sometimes we don't know what we are looking for or just haven't taken a good look lately. If a knowledgeable grower sees pests on another grower's plants, they are doing them a great favor by pointing them out. Pests are a whole lot easier to get under control on just a plant or two than after the whole collection is infested.

First of all, they did not appear out of nowhere! Mites like a variety of house and garden plants and can be transferred from plant to plant on your hands, from the clothes you wore in the garden, a common watering container, or from a plant in close proximity on the tray. Let's say you bought a plant at the plant sale and you know this grower has a clean collection so you didn't isolate; or, you took some plants to sell and they didn't, so you took them back home and left them in the box a day or two. You see them in the box and, oh my, they need water. You are in a hurry, and they end up back on the tray, and you forgot which ones they were, until, sometime later you notice something wrong with a couple of plants. The flower buds are blasting, fail to open or are undersized and deformed. Leaves twist and curl and become brittle, especially the tender crown leaves which look greyish and hairy - and panic sets in!!! What can you do?

ISOLATE. Never put a plant into your collection until you have isolated it for several weeks. Keep any potential problem separate from your entire collection. Wash your hands often when caring for your plants.

LEARN TO WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS. The best defense is a good offense! Look your plants over carefully and frequently. A plant that was a prolific bloomer suddenly 'goes down hill'; blooming for several months and not being repotted will do that to a plant, right? So you mentally think "tomorrow I'll get to that plant." Several days later, something is really wrong with the plant! It was already under stress and it was on the same shelf with the plant you had at the sale. Guess what! A quick look under a powerful magnifying glass (you can't see mites with the naked eye; they are only 1/100th of an inch long) revealed tiny, creepy, chewing, six legged (not 8 like a spider), egg laying, honey colored pests! MITES!

Now panic really sets in. What to do? Treat the whole tray or collection depending on where the plant has been.

TREAT. Treat with Kelthane, a miticide. This can be a messy job but mix a couple of gallons of solution and dip; yes, dip the entire plant in the solution, twice at seven day intervals. You can hold the soil with your hands as you up-end the plant into the solution and WEAR RUBBER GLOVES. The plants will look messy, the blossoms may as well come off because they won't look good after this bath, and you must do it again in seven to ten days. Eggs hatch in three to seven days depending on the temperature. For smaller plants, a sprayer (like a window cleaner bottle) will work, but you must spray both the tops and bottom of the leaves carefully. Since mites avoid light, blossoms and buds may provide hiding places; another reason to remove blossoms and disbud.

LEARN ABOUT MITES. Let's back up a minute. Mites are not insects so they don't respond when treated with insecticides. Cyclamen mites do the most damage to African violets. They insert mouth parts into plant tissue and suck out plant juices at the same time they inject toxic chemicals into the plant which disrupts normal plant growth. Early signs appear as a whitish, fuzzy center, with the center leaves becoming tight and brittle. Infestations may be quite advanced before a definite diagnosis is made. Taking the advice, "When in doubt, throw it out," is probably a good idea, followed with treatment of the surrounding plants. A heavy infestation will distort blossoms and destroy the whole center of a plant in a couple of weeks.

There are two other mites that are serious pests to violets - the broad mite which prefers the underside of leaves and cause the leaves to become brittle and roll or curl under at the edges and the spider mite found on the underside of leaves and produce a rusty or mottled look to foliage and fine spidery webs. All three types of mites can be treated with Kelthane.

This discussion should not cause anyone to panic or to avoid buying at club sales. Most growers who have had plants for a while and have brought plants into their homes have had an experience with cyclamen mites. The important message is that everyone needs to exercise caution when introducing new plants into your home; to learn to recognize the early signs of pest invasion; and to know what to do if (when) it happens.

For more information see: *Insect & Mite Pests of African Violets* by Dr. Charles Cole. Also, the AVSA Handbook has a chapter on Pests.

Courtesy of 'The Bloomin' Violet'
Cedar Valley AVC
Cedar Falls, IA

Coming Events

MAY 2, 3 & 4 - CANADA
Stampede City AVS of Calgary, Alberta, Canada
20th Annual Show/Sale
Northland Village Shoppes, 5111 Northland Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta
Info: Winston J. Goretsky (403) 282 - 7851
Richard Farraway (403) 246 - 5614

MAY 3 - 4 - ARKANSAS
North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale
Jacksonville Community Center, 9 Municipal Dr., Jacksonville, AR
May 4 - Show/Sale Open to the Public, 9am - 5pm
Info: Glenda Dye (501) 982 - 9654

MAY 3 & 4 - WISCONSIN
Late Bloomers AVC of Monroe, WI judged Show/Sale
Beloit Mall, Beloit, WI
May 3 - 10am - 9pm, May 4 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Shirley Streit (608) 934 - 5411

MAY 3, 4 & 5 - OHIO
The Cincinnati AVS Show/Sale
Beechmont Mall
May 3 - 1 pm - 9pm, May 4 & 5 - Mall Hours
Info: (513) 271 - 5678 or (513) 384 - 4437

MAY 4 - CALIFORNIA
Burbank AVS Annual Display/Sale
Verdugo Park Lower Assembly Bldg., 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank, CA
Hours: 9am - 4pm
Info: (818) 846-1241

MAY 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA
Orange County & Tustana AVS Show
Westminster Mall at 405 Freeway
Bolsa Ave & Goldenwest, Westminster, CA
May 4 - 10am - 7pm, May 5 - 11 am - 6pm
Info: Jean (714) 544 - 2349

MAY 4 & 5 - MISSOURI
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council Annual Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Gardens,
4344 Shaw, St. Louis, MO
Open to the Public, Both Days 9am - 5pm
Info: Helen Blanton (314) 441- 3072

MAY 4 & 5 - CANADA
Lakeshore AVS of Toronto Annual Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens, 25 The West Mall, Etobicoke
May 4 - 11 am - 5pm, May 5 - noon - 4pm
Info: Doris Brownlie (905) 270 - 6776

MAY 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA
Ventura County AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventure Mall at Mills Rd. and Main Street, Ventura, CA
May 4 - Sale 10am - 6pm, Show noon - 6pm
May 5 - Sale 11 am - 6pm, Show 11 am - 6pm

MAY 4 & 5 - VIRGINIA
Old Dominion AVS of Northern VA Annual Show/Sale
Green Spring Garden Park, Fairfax County, VA
Info: Laurene Jones (703) 560 - 6134

MAY 4 & 5 - WISCONSIN
Crosstown AVC Annual Show/Sale
East Towne Mall, Madison, WI
Mall Hours
Info: Bonnie Henell (608) 221 - 2050

MAY 4 & 5 - MISSOURI
Sho-Me AVC Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Both Days: 10am - 3pm
Info: (816) 761 - 7189

MAY 4 & 5 - NEW YORK
Paumanok AVS AVSA Judged Show/Sale
St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, Shrine Pl. and Pulaski Rd., Greenlawn, NY
May 4 - 2 - 6pm, May 5 - 1 - 5pm
Info: Tina Pigart (516) 427 - 7390

MAY 4 & 5 - NEWYORK
AVS of Syracuse, NY Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall, Clay NY
Rt. 31, west out of Syracuse
Mall Hours
Info: Richard J. Gundlach (315) 455 - 2963

MAY 4 & 5 - PENNSYLVANIA
AVS of Philadelphia 35th Show/Sale
Watertower Recreation Center
Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
May 4 -1 - 9pm, May 5 -12pm - 4pm
Info: Peggy DePhillippo (610) 489 - 4744

MAY 4 & 5 - CONNECTICUT
Silvermine AVS 23rd Annual Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities,
10 Woodside Ln., Westport, CT
May 4 -1 :30 - 5pm, May 5 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570
Lynn Wallach (203) 227 - 5487

MAY 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA
Tustana AVS 9th Annual Show
Westminster Mall at 405 Freeway
Bolsa Ave. and Goldenwest
May 4 - 10am - 7pm, May 5 - 11 am - 6pm
Info: (714) 544 - 2349

MAY 4 & 5 - WISCONSIN
Milwaukee AVS AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Southgate Mall, 3333 So. 27th St, Milwaukee, WI
May 4 -10am - 6pm, May 5 - noon - 5pm
Info: (414) 444- 3905

MAY 4 & 5 - CANADA
Monctonian AVS Annual Show/Sale
MacArthur's Nursery, Moncton, NB, Canada
May 4 - 2pm, May 5 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Francine Cain (506) 855-1758

MAY 9, 10 & 11 - OH10
Violets & Friends Club Annual Judged Show/Sale
Miami Valley Center Mall
May 9 -1 - 9pm, May 10 & 11 -10am - 9pm
Info: (513) 492 - 6588, (513) 773 - 6603

MAY 9, 10 & 11 - CANADA
AVS of Canada 29th Annual Convention
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Info: Bob McCade, 769 Holt Crescent,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 2Y5, Canada
(613) 737-3793

MAY 10 & 11 - LOUISIANA
Top Choice AVC Plant Sale & Clinic
Pierre Bossier Mall, Bossier City, LA
May 10 - 10am - 6pm
May 11 -10am - 6pm, or until Sold Out
Info: (318) 929 - 7749

May 10 & 11- MARYLAND
Baltimore AVC Annual Show/Sale
North Plaza Mall
Perring Parkway & Joppa Rd
Info: Shirley Huffman (310) 953 - 7554

MAY 10 & 11 - NORTH CAROLINA
First Goldsboro AVS Spring Show/Sale
Berkeley Mall, Goldsboro, NC
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: Lorena Bunn (919) 747 - 8917

MAY 10 & 11 - FLORIDA
Suncoast AVS Spring Show/Sale
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church Parish Hall
3747 34th St. S., St. Petersburg, FL
May 10 - 9am - 4pm, May 11 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Retta Anderson (813) 866 - 3468

MAY 10 & 11 - NEW JERSEY
Garden State AVC 45th Annual; Judged Show/Sale
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East State St.
Extension Mercerville, NJ
May 10 - 1 pm - 8pm, May 11 -10am - 4pm
Info: Gary Thurman (609) 499 - 3395

MAY 10 & 11 - WASHINGTON
Longview AVC Show/Sale
Longview Triangle Mall, Longview, WA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm

MAY 10 & 11 - WISCONSIN
AV Fanciers Sale/Display
Beloit Mall, Rt. 51, North Beloit, WI
May 10 -10am - 7pm, May 11-10am - 2pm
Info: Florise Hogan (815) 397 - 2000

MAY 10 & 11 - OHIO
Parmatown AVC 36th Annual Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall, 7899 West Ridgewood Dr., Parma, OH
May 10 -12:30 - 9pm, May 11 - 9am - 6pm
Sale Table Opens 9:30am, Both Days
Info: Marian Tisdale - (216) 845 - 2525

MAY 11 - NEBRASKA
Omaha AVS Spring Show
Southroads Mall, 1001 Fort Crook Rd., Bellevue, NE
10am - 5pm
Info: Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

MAY 11 - CALIFORNIA
Bellflower AVS Annual Display/Sale
Stonewood Mall, 121 Stonewood St., Downey, CA
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Terry Annabel (310) 924 - 1138

MAY 11 - OREGON
Portland AVS Mother's Day Sale
Eastport Plaza Mall, 4020 SE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Richard Smith (503) 771 - 5762

MAY 11 - TEXAS
Corpus Christi AVS Annual Mother's Day Sale
Center Court, Padre Staples Mall
5400 S. Padre Island Dr., Corpus Christi, TX
Info: (512) 992 - 3009

MAY 11 & 12 - VIRGINIA
Tidewater AVS Show/Sale
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
May 11 - 2:30 - 5pm, May 12 -11am - 4pm
Info: Pat Knight (804) 479 - 2115

MAY 11 - NORTH CAROLINA
Green Thumb AVS Mother's Day Sale
Carolina East Mall, Greenville, NC
10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

MAY 11 - CALIFORNIA
Fancy Bloomers AVs Annual Sale
Coddingtown Mall, Guernville Road, Santa Rosa, CA
10am - until Sold Out
Info: Harriet Maddux (707) 523 -1614

MAY 11 & 12 - CALIFORNIA
Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza at West Covina, Lower Level
Bullock's/Macy's Court
1200 West Covina Parkway, West Covina, CA
May 11 -10am - 8pm, May 12 -11am - 7pm
Info: Pat Thornton (818) 963 - 2586

MAY 13 - TEXAS
Four Seasons AVC
Mother's Day Show/Sale, Central Mall,
Hwy. 365, Port Arthur, TX
Mall Hours
Info: Sandra McDaniel (409) 982 - 9940

MAY 25 - 26- VERMONT
Mount Snow Home & Garden Show
Garden design, home decorating with plants
Mount Snow, VT
Info: Kelly Faucher (800) 245-SNOW

MAY 26 - CANADA
Toronto 38th Annual Show
Civic Garden Center, Edwards Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E., Don Mills, Ontario, Canada
11am - 5pm
Info: (416) 491 - 9719

JUNE 8 & 9 - ILLINOIS
Glenview/Northshore AVS Show/Sale
Chicago Botanic Garden, Lake Cook Rd.,
east of Edens
Parking $4 non-members
June 8 - 1 pm - 5pm, June 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Goodsell - (847) 729 -1690

Water Woes: pH & African Violets

by Brenda Naroznick
Irvine, Alberta, Canada

The pH of your soil is of primary importance. The availability of nutrients depends on it. A pH value between 6.5 and 7.0 provides the highest availability of nutrients to your plants.

Not a problem, you say? You use a top quality soil mix from your club? Me, too! But before you pat yourself on the back for having this problem nipped in the bud, check your water properties. I speak from experience...

As a renter, I have moved several times with a large violet collection in tow. Last year, we decided to give life on an acreage a try. The water here is very hard, so we installed an Instapure Water Filter made by Teledyne Water Pik onto the kitchen faucet. It greatly improved the taste of our drinking water and I filtered the water for my violets as well. However, a couple of months after settling in, my violets started to take a turn for the worse. They didn't seem to be growing very fast and some of the centers were starting to look stunted. I checked for pests, but could find no sign. What was wrong? After inspecting my leaf trays the culprit became apparent. The top of the vermiculite was covered with a white layer of salts, and leaves and babies were being burned.

Previous experience in keeping aquariums came in handy. Aqualab I test strips (available in pet stores), were used to test the pH, buffering capacity and total hardness. The pH of the water was over 8.4; the buffering capacity (or total alkalinity) was more than 300ppm, and the total hardness was over 425ppm. That was as exact as I could get because the readings were so high, they went right off the end of the chart!

My water supply for my violets is kept in a 36 liter Rubbermaid container. A submersible water pump, used for ponds, is turned on at watering time and a watering wand is used. To this I added an Aquaclear 150 aquarium filter (also available at pet stores). This particular filter system hangs on the outside of your aquarium (or watering tub) drawing the water up, through the filter body, and back into the tank. As filter material, I choose a sponge, followed by a hard brick of peat moss, followed by a charcoal pillow. These are also available at pet stores and are made to fit each size and type of filtering unit. The peat was placed in a nylon stocking before it was installed in the filter to aid in easier removal later. Filtering your water through peat is a way of lowering pH organically, rather than through the use of chemicals. This alone, however, was not enough to stabilize the pH at the desired level. A water softener pillow was also added. They contain styrene D.V.B. ion exchange resin. It softened water by removing calcium, magnesium and heavy metals, as well as eliminating the white crust, or salts, that are left behind when water evaporates. You place it in the filter, in exchange for the carbon pillow, leaving it for 24 hours. In that amount of time, it will remove 70ppm from 20 gallons of water. Then, it must be removed and returned to its charging solution for 2 hours. Although filtering the water worked, it was a long, slow process to treat the large amount of water I needed.

So I came up with Plan 2. Plan 2 was simple; haul water in jugs from town. Their water has a perfect pH of 7, with moderate hardness and buffer capacity.

Now that the water problem was fixed, the only remaining problem was how to treat those violets that had been stressed. Reasoning that the soil was now too high of a pH, I bought distilled water and leached the plants with it. Distilled water has a low pH of 6.0 and zero hardness and buffering capacity. Leaching is the process of pouring water into the top of the pot until it comes clean out of the bottom. Water, the color of tea, came out the bottom of my poor plants. Some plants had to be restarted from leaves because they were too far gone, and others were repotted. For some, all that water was just the last straw, and others bounced back as good as new.

It has been a few months now, since my water woes, and I'm still diligently hauling water from town. But everybody is healthy and happy in my plant room! The moral of the story? Always check your water properties!

REJUVENATION

BY
BEVERLY DONSWORTH,
AUSTRALIA

Now that the warmer weather has arrived, there are many chores to be done which were not very practical during the winter.

Two of these are rejuvenating an old plant and dividing a multicrowned plant.

Most of us have had a favorite old plant, which through lack of repotting has grown a long "turkey neck" over the side of the pot, leaning toward the light. It is quite easy and safe to carry out a rejuvenating operation (face lift), provided a certain amount of care is taken.

Remove the plant from the pot and take off the lower leaves, leaving a crown of about six center leaves. Measure how much of the root ball must be removed to fit the plant in a new pot, so that the crown is in the center of the pot, level with the rim. Trim off excess roots.

It is preferable to leave some roots on the plant, but if the neck is so twisted and long that it cannot be fitted into the pot, take the roots off leaving a cutting with about 2″ of stem. Remove all the scale tissue from the stem. Gently scrape the stem, removing the scale tissue (where the leaves have grown), exposing a fleshy stem. Roots will grow from this area when it is replanted. I generally let this dry a little while before planting. The crown can now be rerooted in potting mix or a perlite/vermiculite mixture. I often put my usual mix in a pot then make a well in the center filled with vermiculite or the perlite/vermiculite mixture for planting the crown.

If there is some root left on the plant I generally repot with potting mix only. The plant can be watered with tepid water and placed in a warm place. It is important, at this stage, not to keep the plant too wet as it may rot. Some people dust the stem with sulphur or a fungicide, but I have never done this. Or, after watering and draining, the plant may be placed in a plastic bag for two to four weeks. This creates a terrarium effect. The bag can be gradually opened, exposing the plant to air. Eventually, it can be placed on a reservoir of water if you intend to wick water it. Once new growth appears fertilizer can be added.

A similar treatment can be applied to a multicrowned plant. Remove all the outer leaves until the side shoots (crowns) are evident, and with a sharp pointed knife gently cut out each one. These will have no roots and can be potted up individually using the method of vermiculite or perlite/vermiculite in a well in the center of the potting mix. Make a slight indent in the center and gently press the side shoot into it. They can be watered, drained, then tied up in a plastic bag or left on a reservoir of water in a warm place.

African violets are wonderful house plants, and given the right conditions can live for many years.

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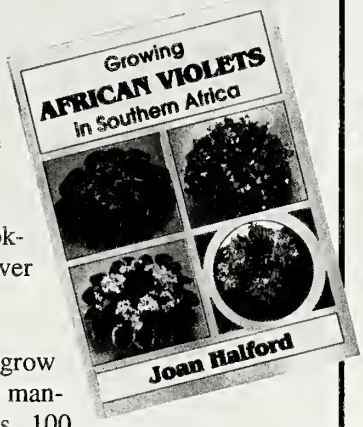

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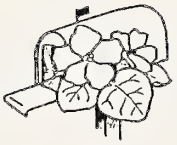

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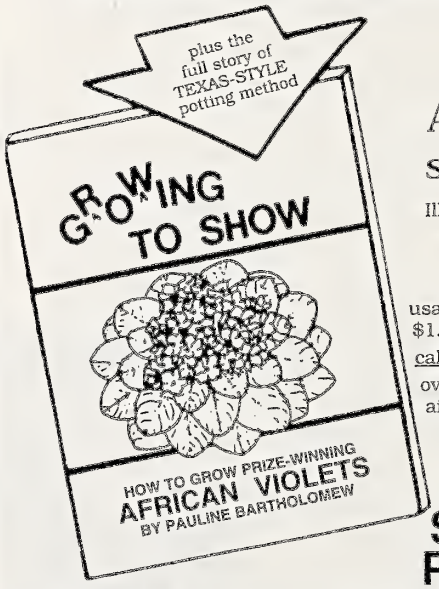

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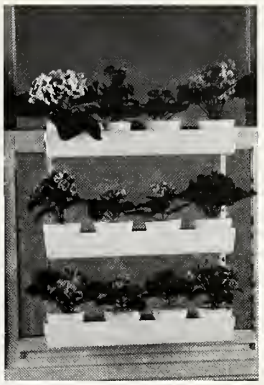

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ROB'S DOUBLE WHAMMY: Triple white carnation blooms w/edging of deep purple; semimini

ROB'S HIPPITY HOP: Wow! Fantastic sdbl. frilled med. orchid-blue w/thick edging of very dark purple; dark foliage; spectacular semimini

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BRISTOL'S LIBATION: Large, dbl. med. orchid w/dark orchid-purple netting on lower lobes; the look of an orchid

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3	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.00	3.80	8.00	15.00	61.00
3-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT or SQ	2.30	4.00	9.50	16.50	71.00
4	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.80	4.40	11.00	20.00	82.00
4-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	3.00	5.40	12.00	22.00	91.00
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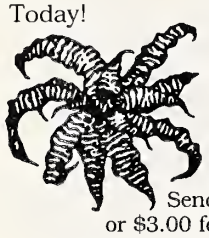

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PLASTIC LABELS	100	500	1000
3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	1.00	4.75	7.00
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.25	5.75	10.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.50	7.00	13.00
4 1/2" White only	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes	1	6	12	25	50
4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4"	4.50	26.00	49.00		
PLASTIC TRAYS - No Holes					
25-1/2" x 13-1/2" x 3-3/16" Gr. or Wt.	3.60	20.25	38.50	73.50	
Elisa's African Violet Rings					
Mini (6") Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9" Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13" Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic
Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - $2.75 each;
3 for $7.50; 6 for $13.50; 12 for $26.00
PLASTIC TERRARIUM
12" Diameter - $6.75 each
White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta
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$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:
Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - $4.00;
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Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number
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Formula	Type	Size / Price 4 oz.	12 oz.
12-36-14	African Violet Special	$1.25	$3.25
5-50-17	Variegated Special	1.25	3.50
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	1.25	3.00
		4 oz.	**16 oz.**
20-20-20	General Purpose	1.25	3.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone			**2 lbs.**/$1.75
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	40 oz.
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
		4 qts.	**16 qts.**
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.50	4.50
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
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WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20
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32 OZ. - $9.95
1 gal. - $29.95

SUPERTHRIVE
1/2 oz. - $2.29
1 oz. - $3.39
2 oz. - $4.55
4 oz. - $6.39

DANDY POTS
2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS
Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3"
4"-5"-6"

BATEMAN'S BOUNTY 6-2-2
8 oz. - $2.99
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STURDY
4 oz. - $2.99
8 oz. - $5.25

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8 oz. BOUNTY,
4 oz. STURDY+
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PINK VERONA
WHITE DISCO
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CENTENNIAL FLARE
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CHORALE
CRESCENDO
CRISTABEL
DOROTHY
FANTASY FORTY
FANTASY FROLIC
FIRE MOUNTAIN
FIREWALKER
FRECKLED STAR
HIS PROMISE
HONORE
HOT PANTS
JULIA FLADT
LAVENDER SUNRISE
MIA
MIDNIGHT SONATA
MIDNIGHT TWIST
MORNING HAZE
NANCY LEIGH
PINK CAMEO
PINK PHANTOM
PLUM DE CREME
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PROSPER
RAPHAEL
RAPID TRANSIT
RAZAMATAZ
RED ADMIRAL
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ROSINA

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MINI FAVORITE
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ZONE 3-4-5 ..... $5.50 per shipment
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African Violet

The magazine dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August 1996 Volume 49 Number 4

AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:
Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual $18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - $20.50; Commercial USA $30; Commercial International - $33.75; Life (USA) - $275. International Life $325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - $20; Council, State or Region - $20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955, 407-631-1106.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, P. O. Box 38, Oreland, PA 19075.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, 1534 Robeson, Fall River, MA 02720.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Atlanta, GA - May 20-25, 1996. St. Petersburg, FL - June 1-8, 1997. Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - $8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 $6.00 per 100;1000 and over - $4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 $27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - $25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over $23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - $10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook **prior** to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is $4.25

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1996, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; FAX 409-839-4329.

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue -Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb.1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; 410-686-4667.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan. issue - Oct. 15; Mar. issue - Dec. 15; May issue - Feb. 15; July issue - Apr. 15; Sept. issue - June 15; Nov. issue Aug. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send to Al and Cathy Cornibe, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith, 489 Linwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209 and Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - $13.25 postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - $8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - $25.00. Updates (when available) - $25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Richard Nicholas, 648 Woodbriar Ct., Evansville, IN 47715

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - $7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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POSTMASTER: Please Send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August Volume 49 Number 4

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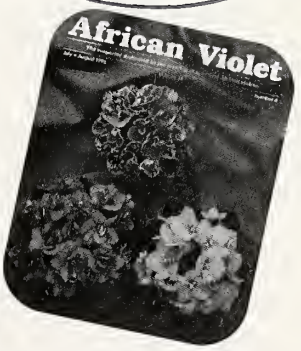
Hybridizer: Pritchet
(top) **2nd Best In Show** "Definitely Darryl"
Hybridizer: Pittman
(l) "Sugar Bear Blues"
Hybridizer: Ness

These three plants also comprised the winning **Best AVSA Semiminiature Collection**. All were grown and exhibited by **Kathy Lahti** of Forest Lake, MN



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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African Violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

Dear AVSA Members and Friends,

The Grand Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of our beloved society was fittingly celebrated in Atlanta, the city where it all began, with a week of convention activities geared to those in attendance. And a wonderful convention it was! The hotel chosen for the convention and our home for a week -- The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia -- lived up to the favorable comments we received by many who were familiar with this lovely hotel. It was a week filled with activities, tours, and fellowship with our fellow African violet growers.

Conventions are like other ambitious projects in that they don't "happen". A lot of time, talent, hard work, and an abundance of energy go into planning and presenting a convention. I am sure that I can speak for the entire membership and guests who were in attendance in Atlanta in '96 when I offer our sincere thanks to Laura Walker, our AVSA Convention Chairman; Kathy Spissman, our Show Chairman; Ann Miller, Chairman and Linda Owens, Vice-Chairman and all members of the AVSA Convention Committee; and to each and every member who worked so tirelessly to present the Convention and to offer genuine hospitality to all who were present. Yours was a job well done and we appreciate all you did to make it a happy one.

As I write this letter I was informed that Peggy Rios, an AVSA member from Springfield, PA. passed away. Peggy and her brother, Postmaster Marvin Runyon, were present in Beaumont, Texas in the fall of 1993 when the U.S. Postal Service conducted a first-day-issue ceremony for the African Violet Commemorative Stamp. Peggy was also in attendance at our recent Atlanta convention. To her family we offer heartfelt sympathy.

Now that we are once again experiencing the heat of summer let us make an attempt to keep plants in good condition in spite of the heat.

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702 • (409) 839-4725

AVSA's Golden Celebration in Atlanta was a wonderful experience. It was good to see so many friends from last year and to finally meet some of you I've only spoken with over the phone, or through correspondence.

Our Atlanta hosts, guided by **Laura Walker** and **Kathy Spissman**, are to be commended for making everyone feel so welcome in their city. Native Atlantan, **Jeanette Wallace**, went out of her way to demonstrate true southern hospitality.

The Show Room was breathtaking, and you may expect to see photographs of the beautiful plants exhibited on the covers and in the color pages of this magazine over the next year.

Our Commercial Members outdid themselves this year with their display tables, and the Sales Room was, as always, a continuous throng of activity. (A list of the Convention Show Winners can be found on page 21.)

Our Fiftieth Anniversary Book debuted in Atlanta at the AVSA Sales table. We had only a limited number of these printed, so be sure to order yours soon. I think you will be surprised at the quality and clarity of the color photos in this book. Every one of them is an actual photograph from a former issue of the AVM, even as far back as the late 1940's and early 1950's. Many of the historic photos from the early days are part of **Anne and Frank Tinari's** personal mementos. Others are from the AVSA Archives and were originally part of the estate of the late **Floyd Johnson**, a former AVSA President. I divided the book by decades, and I think you'll enjoy reading actual articles from the past that reflect developments in not only African violet culture and hybridization, but in our members and the world around us.

Our limited edition 50th Anniversary Pin is also now available through the Beaumont office. Look for a picture of both the pin and the anniversary book on page 54.

It was a real pleasure to again see **Joan Halford** of South Africa. Joan is one of AVSA's most loyal supporters. I also met two of her countrymen, in America for the first time, **Deon du Toit** of Peba House Plants, and **Andre Möhlen** of AM Indoor Plants.

At the Grand Finale Banquet, it was a thrill to see my good friends, **Ellen and Bill Beckerman** honored for the extensive work they donated to our anniversary book. A gifted writer and photographer, Ellen has written an article on the experience of being a first-time convention attendee. Look for it in the September/October AVM.

Toni Breden was also recognized for her terrific article on flower arrangement and design. Like Toni, many of you are untapped sources of knowledge. This is why I urge all of you to write for this publication. You don't have to have writing experience, but a love of African violets is helpful!

Carter Coleman, of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund, joined us briefly in Atlanta. His presentation on the survival of the wild African violet was very well received. News of advancements the TWF has made in protecting the Saintpaulia's natural habitat is encouraging. To support this worthwhile conservation group, please write to Carter at : TWF, 31 E. 12th Street, Suite 2D, NY, NY 10003, or see the informational ad on page 56 of this issue.

Agatha Garrison, of New Mexico, should be commended for her vigorous promotion of African violets and the AVSA. Hopefully, more of our members will follow her lead and encourage their local newspapers to write about our favorite houseplant. Remember, I will happily supply not only text, but slides for these articles.

I would like to encourage all of our Commercial Members to advertise in the AVM. Commercial membership is a real bargain when you consider all the extras. Each member is listed in the September/October AVM. Any time we have an inquiry at the office about purchasing plants or supplies, we refer the caller to our commercial members. Please help support this publication by advertising.

African Violet Society of America, Inc. Memo

by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager
2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702

The 1996 AVSA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, was terrific! The hard work and southern hospitality of the host group from Georgia was very apparent. Since this convention was also the 50th Anniversary of AVSA, it was very special in many ways. The hotel was a plant lover's dream. It contained thousands of tropical plants, waterfalls, ponds, and beautifully landscaped walkways. The workshops were great and attended by a large number of registrants. The banquet's were delightful, the food good and the entertainment exceptional. The host group for the Florida convention performed a hilarious sketch inviting everyone to next year's meeting in St. Petersburg. And of course, the Show was marvelous!

I would like to take a moment to thank Mary Walbrick of Texas, Nancy Amelung and Margaret Kline of Missouri, and Kate Dennis of Kansas for helping at the AVSA Sales and Info table. Sales were extremely good and at times things became very hectic. They are all volunteers who give their time to work at the sales table so I can attend to other matters. If I left anyone out, please know that your assistance was greatly appreciated.

Kate Dennis is the nine year old daughter of Pat Richards. As you probably know, Pat Richards is a newly elected director and our AVM "Thinking Small" columnist. Kate is an AVSA member and her enthusiasm and willingness to help was delightful.

Sales of the 50th Anniversary Book and Pin kept everyone very busy. I did find time to chat with many of our members. Meeting our members and getting to know them on a personal basis is the best part of convention for me. AVSA members are the nicest people in the world. I would also like to say "Thank you" to all of those people who made such kind remarks about the friendly and efficient operation of the Beaumont Office. Our secretaries, Jenny and Pam, and I really strive to give AVSA members the excellent service they deserve.

If you were not able to attend convention and would like to purchase the 50th Anniversary book or pin, they are now available thru the office. Information about price and ordering appear elsewhere in this issue. Order yours early because these are limited editions and will not be reordered when stock is depleted.

NOW FOR THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT! AVSA WILL HAVE A WEB SITE ON LINE BY AUGUST. The Board of Directors voted to develop a web site on a trial basis. We are still in the development stages and are putting together ideas for content. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please call me or e-mail me at CindyCAVSA@aol.com. My e-mail address may change but if you can't reach me call the 1-800 number and I will give you the new one. We are extremely excited about this new venture. When I began working in this position, it was my belief that communication was the key to AVSA's continued success (and indeed, survival). The internet will give AVSA the ability to communicate with the world. Not only will we be able to share the most up-to-date AV growing information, we will be able to share information about our organization. We will also have more information in each AVM about other internet sites devoted to African violets and gesneriads. The AVSA web site will be up and running in about two weeks but will have limited information on the initial home page. You may access the web site at http://www.avsa.org and e-mail the office at info@avsa.org. If you have a problem with either of these, call me. As we go to press, these are still in the works!

Thanks to the Affiliates who responded to my request in the May AVM to update their club information with the AVSA office. If you haven't done so, please send in your list of new officers by July 20. The September supplement that lists all Affiliates, Judges and Commercial members is an important resource and the information needs to be as accurate as possible. We had some problems last year with the Affiliate listing so we had the report that creates this list rewritten and the list will be more accurate. Please remember that if your Affiliate dues are not current and your president has not been updated recently, your listing will not be correct.

We will soon have an IBM compatible windows version of the MVL on diskette. It is really a neat program developed by one of our members, Joe Bruns of Illinois. The name of the program is "First Class". It was used at the Atlanta convention for entries and received rave reviews. It is also an excellent program for members who would like to have a window's version of the MVL. More information will be given in the September AVM.

Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

Surprise Disasters

Natural disasters like tornadoes and earthquakes are often featured as major stories on the evening news. When disaster strikes an African violet collection, it can be equally devastating to an avid grower even if the major news bureaus don't provide coverage.

Although many natural disasters strike suddenly, most African violet disasters tend to come on slowly. You may be aware that a particular insect or fungus disease poses a threat. You practice good culture, as much as you know how, to prevent calamities in your violet collection. After you have been growing violets seriously for a while, you start to recognize some danger signals and you take appropriate measures. At least, most of the time, you are in control.

Once in a while, however, disaster occurs without warning. This can even happen to very experienced growers. Although the cause of the disaster may seem like a huge mystery, it is no time to panic. Take time to analyze all aspects of your growing methods. Usually sudden changes affecting a violet collection are the result of sudden but possibly subtle changes in the growing environment.

How Fast Do These Disasters Happen?

Most serious insect infestations and diseases come on slowly for African violets. One lonely (but pregnant) insect enters the growing area and bears young. The youngsters grow up and begin feeding and reproducing themselves. You may not notice their presence or detect any damage until the third or fourth generation is feeding, and it may not be a disaster even then. The first indication of damage should send you to your books and advisors (like your violet friends) to find out how to treat for that particular invader. There is still time to handle the problem and protect most of your plants.

Fungal diseases also usually begin quite gradually. A small spot of powdery mildew develops on a leaf or bloom, for example. Perhaps one plant fails from crown rot. A symptom serves as a warning that you need to treat for the fungus before it spreads. It becomes a disaster only when it gets out of control, and that does not usually happen overnight.

Similarly, poor cultural practices may result in weakened violets that slowly die or barely cling to life. But most of the time, poor light conditions, inconsistent watering, or lack of fertilizer will not kill violets suddenly. Usually improving your growing skills will result in plants with regained health and vigor.

What we really want to discuss are those things that can happen seemingly overnight. One day you look in on your violets and they seem quite happy. Twenty-four hours later they are dead or have severely damaged foliage and flowers. What happened?

Begin by considering the environment. Look at the weather outside and what you did or did not do in response to that weather. Look at how the air temperature controls in the house are reacting to seasonal changes. Temperature and humidity are always prime suspects (just like the butler, you know). Next, look for clues pointing to source of chemical damage. Finally, there is always the possibility that there was a guilty culprit who did the deed and ran.

What Happens To Violets When The Weather Changes Outside?

If you grow lots of violets in a carefully controlled room, you may think that the outside weather doesn't influence your indoor growing, but it does.

During warm seasons, many growers air condition their growing area to keep their plants and themselves a bit cooler During the cool seasons, the growing area may be heated (especially in northern areas). This is all done to keep the violets at a fairly even temperature. Most of the time this works fine ... but once in awhile ... disaster!

What if you happen to be gone and there is a power failure? All your temperature controls fail. The plants die very rapidly at temperatures below 40 degrees and above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. It seems like a rare year that we don't hear of someone who has lived through this misfortune. Often the only solution is to throw everything away, cry a little, and start over, hopefully with the help of violet friends.

Power failure is an obvious calamity, but mysterious damage to your violets can occur when you are just being a little conservative with the air controls in order to save some money. For example, imagine one of those wonderful times of year when the windows can be thrown open and no temperature controls are needed. Sometimes toward the end of those

seasons, there can be more extreme temperatures, a sudden shift to very hot or very chilly weather. It may seem foolish to turn on an air conditioner or a furnace for just one short day. You just cope with a few less clothes or a few more blankets. Your violets do not always cope as well.

Temperature drops can cause a number of problems for your plants. First of all, roots may be damaged when they get cold. Patches or spots may appear on the leaves, often delicately marked with veining, as a result of cold roots. Secondly, these temperature drops cause the humidity level to increase as the air nears its dew point. If the forced air system is turned off to conserve energy, this high humidity is accompanied by unmoving air. That provides for the phenomenal growth of mildew or other fungus that can ruin blossoms overnight or allow rot to set in quickly.

Temperature increases cause different problems. Blossoms fade rapidly in heat. Very high heat can cause foliage to become limp and watery in a matter of hours. Heat causes a plant to lose moisture quickly. This may result in a concentration of fertilizer salt around the edges of the leaves. It typically shows up as a halo of mars on the leaf margins.

Plants grown in windows are especially vulnerable too damage when the air temperature extreme is magnified by the additional heat of direct sunlight. In our climate, plants may be grown successfully in south or west windows much of the year. But in March and again in late September the angle of the sun becomes dangerous for plants in those windows. We commonly hear stories of foliage that has bleached or even burned and turned mushy, and it happens nearly every spring and fall. Be aware of the times of the year when your plants are more at risk.

Temperature drops of more than 20 degrees Fahrenheit can also cause problems as a result of moisture condensation. This dew effect is often seen on the ground in the early morning. It can also occur on your violet's leaves and flowers when temperatures fluctuate dramatically. Droplets of moisture may leave spots on the blossoms or foliage. If the sun were to be shining directly on these damp plants, your flowers and foliage could be badly damaged in a few hours. Blemishes may be only on the side of the plant that was nearest the window or cold wall. By the time you see the spotted flowers or leaves, the moisture has already evaporated. This could be quite a mystery, if you don't pause to consider how the temperatures may have varied in the hours before the damage appeared.

Chemical Damage

What kind of chemical pollution could hurt a plant and not be noticed by you?? How about cleaning sprays, especially the oil-based sprays for dusting wood surfaces? These can actually kill a plant if the plant is thoroughly coated. The chill of an aerosol spray at close range can also cause cell damage on foliage. Other cleaning solvents that contain ammonia or detergents can quickly spot blossoms, even if they don't kill the plant. These accidents tend to occur when the cleaning is done by someone else who may not be as careful about the plants as you are. This seems especially likely when the violets are grown at the office where it is difficult to advise the cleaning crew (or see what they do to your plants).

Another quick-acting pollutant to violets is any oil-based insecticide that does not list African violets on the label. It may be very effective on a specific insect, but the oil base can be quite injurious to plant tissue. Be sure that all chemicals are labeled for use on violets, and protect your violets when using chemicals near them.

Also, if African violets are growing near any open window, they can fall victim to chemicals being used outside. Herbicides used on a breezy day are lethal both to gardens and to indoor plants near windows. You can't control your neighbors, but if you use herbicides on your weeds, close your windows! Also be sure that any spray containers that have ever contained herbicides are not used for spraying your African violets. One dear friend greatly reduced her collection several years ago when she did this.

Phantom Molestation

The last of the surprise disasters may be the toughest to pinpoint. That's because those who live and work around you know how much you love your violets. When they do something nasty to your plants, they rarely want to confess unless they're caught in the act.

If you share violet space with any other human being or pet, you have to expect a few mishaps. If they knock a plant over, there will be fairly obvious damage of broken leaves and bruised blossoms. If they drop something on the center of the plant, bruising the growth point, it may be a while before the damage becomes apparent. (These are the crimes that are rarely confessed!)

Slightly less violent, but also damaging, are incidents where violet pots are used to dispose of dregs of coffee or other beverages. It looks like water; what would be the harm? Unfortunately, high acid beverages can change soil pH and result in severely yellowed foliage. If you suspect this, a good leaching (watering from the top until the pot drips clear water for several minutes) should help to correct the imbalance.

Some "friends" only come out to play at night – crickets and cockroaches are notorious nocturnal nuisances. Caterpillars and grasshoppers are equally unwelcome in the daytime. Open doors and unscreened windows invite the neighborhood creatures to have lunch at your house. Big bite-marks are usually an indication of these pests. We know from experience what amazing amounts one grasshopper can eat in a short amount of time. But, after you find the culprit, you can squash the problem in a hurry.

Dealing with cats or dogs is another problem entirely. Discretion does not permit us to suggest a solution for that.

Mysteries Solved

Most problems with African violets develop slowly. Gradually plants may seem less strong or vigorous. As you become a more accomplished grower, you may learn to detect the first signs of a problem even before the plants exhibit any pronounced damage.

On the other hand, if your violets decline rapidly, it is wise to spend some serious time thinking. Often it is due to some very natural cause. Although the damage may be severe, it is not necessary to panic or to purchase a lot of new chemicals. Think logically, solve the mystery, and resolve the problem.

Time will repair the damage (unless they're dead). If all else fails, go out and buy some new violets. Don't let it happen again!

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

Now that you have hundreds of seedlings separated and growing up, how will you know which seedlings are valuable and should be kept? Perhaps these ideas will help:

1. If you are looking for good show plants, keep the seedlings that have good symmetry and have leaves that overlap easily without gaps. Seedlings with poor symmetry will likely continue this problem unless caused by a culture break.

2. Watch for seedlings that have strong flower stalks and hold their blooms above the leaves. Avoid plants that tend to lay the blooms on top of the foliage.

3. Bud count is an inheritable trait. Seedlings that have five or more flowers on their first bloom stalks will likely produce more flowers than those with only 2-3 buds.

4. Discard any plants with flowers that are single droppers.

5. If you are selecting for miniatures, discard plants that quickly grow too large to remain in this size category. They will be difficult to keep small enough for show.

6. Look for plants that have unique characteristics or combinations of traits. Try not to keep exact duplicates of existing plants.

7. Unless you are breeding for trailers, avoid seedlings that seem to sucker frequently. It is unlikely that they will outgrow this condition.

8. Although your babies will be special to you, will they be special to anyone else? Be prepared to give away or compost 95-99% of the seedlings.

Q: *Can disease resistance be bred in genetic crosses of African violets?*

A: Yes, disease resistance can be selected for in genetic crosses of African violets. For example, if you notice two plants that don't seem to get a disease-like powdery mildew, using these plants as parents should produce offspring with a similar resistance to the disease. If you are not sure if the parents are disease resistant, just use two of your "healthiest" plants. Hopefully part of their health includes genetic traits for disease resistance.

I had problems last winter with a fungal disease in my species collection. I noticed that the most affected plants were *Saintpaulia difficilis*, *S. magungensis*, and their hybrids. These would obviously be plants that you would NOT want to use in breeding for disease resistance. Other species were not damaged and they could provide genetic material for breeding disease resistant plants in this case.

Q: *What is the rarest flower color in African violets?*

A: In my opinion, the rarest flower color is blue combined with the coral factor. These flowers appear reddish-blue under most lights, but show a distinct red shine under gro-lux style lights. I consider it rare because I've only seen this color in two sports of coral fantasy plants, never as a color bred through a seedling. To most people, this color just appears as a funny kind of blue, so I suspect it will never become very popular.

Q: *If I cross a plant that grows well at "cool" temperatures with a plant that does well in "warm" temperatures, what temperatures would the hybrids prefer?*

A: Normally, I would suggest that the hybrids would be intermediate between the two parents in their preferred growing temperature. However, in a cross of the "cool" species *S. velutina* with the "warm" species *S. magungensis* variety magungensis, the offspring seemed to grow best at cooler temperatures. These results may be typical, but more data is needed before a trend can be stated for certain.

Q: *What are "Dogwood Dots"?*

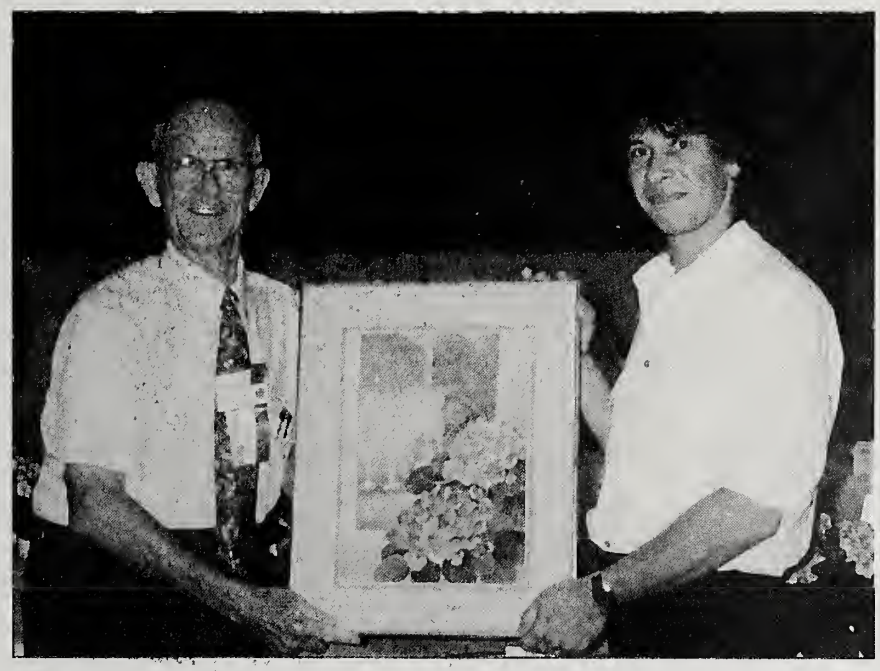
A: The genetic trait known as "Dogwood Dots" gives a white or pale colored spot on the center edge of flower petals. The name for this trait comes from the resemblance of the spots to those seen in the petals (or leaf bracts) of flowering dogwood flowers. The trait is found in plants such as 'Dogwood Dolly' or 'Tipped Honey' and can be found in single or double-flowered plants. Dogwood Dots is a genetic dominant. If one of the parents shows the trait, at least 50% of the offspring should inherit this characteristic in the first generation. It is an easy trait to breed for, but for some reason has never been especially popular.

Q: *I recently heard of a plant described as having "celery" foliage. What type of leaves are these?*

A: I suspect that what was meant was that the plant has leaves similar to the cultivar known as 'Celery'. This plant has longifolia leaves (narrow, long and pointed) and the genetic trait for bustled-backed foliage. The combination produces leaves that twist and curl, producing a plant that looks very similar to a stalk of celery. 'Celery' is a very different looking African violet and one that is impossible to groom for show.

Both the longifolia and bustled-backed leaf traits are genetic dominants and will be expressed in the first generation. It would be easy to breed more hybrids with this type of foliage, but the offspring would never have any value except as oddities.

South African Grower Salutes AVSA's Fiftieth Anniversary



Peba House Plants of South Africa joined in the celebration of the African Violet Society of America's first fifty years with the gift of an original water color painting to be displayed in the AVSA headquarters in Beaumont, Texas.

AVSA President, L.T. Ozio, Jr. (left), accepts the gift from Deon du Toit, Saintpaulia Export/Production Manager of Peba House Plants in the showroom of the 1996 National Show in Atlanta.

Annual Library Message

Jackie Jones
Library Committee Chairman
607 14th Ave, Box 34
Durant, IA 52747-0034

Rules and Regulations for use of AVSA Library materials and a descriptive list of all available library materials will appear in the September-October '96 issue.

This is really an exciting committee to work on. We get to be "up close and personal" with all the lovely entries at a convention show. It is also very rewarding to be able to bring them to the members who love violets so and are unable to see them at our national convention.

Two new programs are being worked on currently. "ATLANTA REVISITED - OUR 50TH", and slides from the new introduction program shown at the Saturday luncheon, "FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING". They will both be available through the Beaumont office October 1, 1996.

A new gesneriad program, "UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN", is available now and another video was added, "OPTIMARA TENNESSEE CROSSROADS".

We are very aware of the interest of having more video programs available and are working toward that goal, however, I personally feel you want good quality videos (now, I only got ONE backside in my last outing with the camera). Zest of the West, a Colorado club that had to disband, generously donated $150 toward video programs and we are very grateful.

As convenient as the video programs are, they cannot duplicate the color and detail of our violets the way a good slide can. And when we're considering a plant to grow, those points are important. For a "how-to" program the video format is GREAT, and we're hounding our good (but very busy) growers to perform.

Use of the Library has been strong and we hope you will continue to order the materials available. If you have suggestions we will be most happy to receive them. In 1997 we will be in Florida in June which will mean many of you "school-oriented" people will be able to attend convention. Keep the Library in mind if you'd like to volunteer!

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Ruth Warren • 1534 Robeson • Fall River, MA 02720

CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH APRIL 1, 1996

Bay State AVS	$25.00
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Helen Konstad	25.00
Viola Fuller	5.00
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Jesse and Hortense Pittman in memory of Ken Froboese's mother, Elsie Froboese	25.00
Union County Chapter AVS in lieu of judge's fees by Dave Tooker, Jan Murasko, Lee Gagliarda	10.00
Sandy and Shirley Sanders in memory of Elsie Froboese	25.00

Sincere thanks to all contributors. AVSA appreciates your generous support and contributions.

AVS of Philadelphia Salutes **the Tinaris**

Each year, just as spring is thinking about arriving, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania bursts forth with the magnificent Philadelphia Flower Show.

Visitors from all over the world flock to this amazing event. For one week, even in blizzard weather (as in 1993), horticulturists (from amateur to professional) display their talents in growing their favorite flowers and plants.

The African Violet Society of Philadelphia has been a constant exhibitor for many years. Our booth excites the enthusiasm of African violet lovers and inspires many others to try their hand at growing violets.

This year, on the occasion of their 51st year in business, we decided to honor the Tinaris by dedicating our booth to them and their hybrids. Because the snows of '96 blocked their storage area, the Tinaris were unable to have their usual sales booth at the show. Literally thousands of people came to our booth thinking we were the Tinaris and expressing dismay because we were not selling plants. This alone, was a fitting tribute to Frank and Anne; to learn how deeply they were missed. However, it gave our club the opportunity to educate the public about the pioneer AV growers in America.

AVS of Philadelphia sell our own culture booklets at the Philadelphia Flower Show and give out handouts describing our club's annual show. Both of these items bring people to our show and often encourage violet lovers to attend our meetings. Each year we have a few new members join our club as a result of these events.

Frank Tinari has been an exhibitor in the market place since 1950, fifteen years before the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society produced the show.

AVS of Philadelphia's booth at the 1996 Philadelphia Flower Show

Our booth at the Philadelphia Flower Show has been chaired and designed by Tom Seiler for many, many years. We try to display at least 50 different plants, and make available names of clubs and hybridizers for those interested. This year we had two four-shelf plant stands, donated by Hydrofarm. Our frontpiece was a table of Tinari hybrids with a prominent write up about their achievements. Between the light stands was one of Anne Tinari's famous baskets of violets. On the floor of the booth were several other smaller baskets of violets.

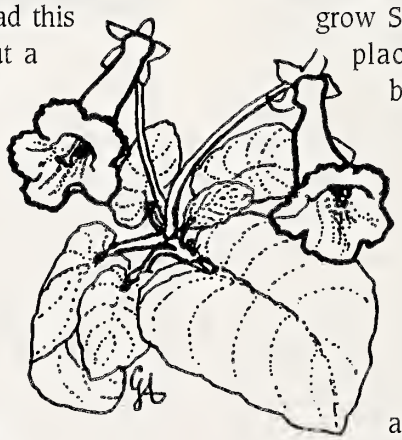
Ann and Frank Tinari are honorary members of the African Violet Society of Philadelphia. They never fail to respond to our needs, if called upon. It is our sincere hope that they will continue to supply their violets and good cheer to all of us.

A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Sinningia 'Best Pink'

Our feature gesneriad is a beauty, *Sinningia* 'Best Pink' which is listed as a Schwartz registration. Yes, it is just about the best pink you can hope for. I've had this for about six months and it is never without a growth and bloom. Notice that there are two simultaneous bloom stalks from each leaf axil. The color is outstanding; a glowing, warm pink with darker markings in the throat.



Since people have asked me to go into more basic detail about how gesneriads are grown, let me dwell on a few techniques. Sinningias are tuberous, that means that they have a storage unit and do not need, nor use, heavy fertilization. Stay away from high nitrogen fertilizer, which is indicated by the first number in a fertilizer formula. Use one that has high phosphorus and potash, the last two numerals. So, a 5-8-6 formula would be great. Nitrogen is to produce foliage and we want to have as many blooms as possible. At my local rose society meeting and in American Rose Magazine, there are many people stressing the danger in using too much nitrogen. It can actually cause problems by over feeding the plant to the point that it can not use the products of photosynthesis. Phosphorus and potash are for bloom, good root systems and general good health. Nitrogen does leave the soil more rapidly in our watering, but the plant can only use it in favorable temperatures.

Too much fertilizer will cause salts to build up in the soil and the very fine roots that form on the tubers can be damaged so easily. This is why I wrap whole sphagnum moss around the tuber and plant it in my regular violet soil mix. The moss seems to act as a buffer against salts. Changing the soil often is a must because it is safer to grow Sinningias in tight pots. My miniatures are placed on water matting made from acrylic blanket material, placed in trays and covered. The professional mat is superior because it is so durable and has a plastic shield with many holes to allow free passage of moisture.

Great foliage with no bloom indicates inadequate light. How many hours of fluorescent light is average? At least eight, providing the tubes are less than 8 or 9 months old. Place them very close to the tubes, about 6 to 8 inches. If tubes are new, leaves may bleach yellow.

I do not recommend regular foliar feeding of Sinningia, but I do use Superthrive, one drop in a gallon of water **WITH** the quarter strength water soluble fertilizer. I need to repeat the fact that **Superthrive is not a fertilizer**, it is a growth enhancer. Every other watering is just plain water from the top. This washes the salts from the soil, depositing it on the mat, which should be washed at least every six months.

If I do not have a plastic dome, I wrap the entire tray with two strips of Saran Wrap just after repotting them. This holds extra humidity. I just poke a hole in it to water the mat.

DIXIE GESNERIADS

Some very special friends had great gesneriads at the Dixie African Violet Convention. Alice McGhee got top

honors with her hybrid, *Episcia* 'My Black Beauty'. The plant looked so husky and had really dark foliage. Diane Fischer grew some lovely gesneriads and had at least three Best in Class. Her beautiful *Sinningia* 'Merry Christmas' was outstanding and she grew one of Richard Holder's Sinningia hybrids to near perfection. We were also very impressed with all of the handsome Streptocarpus shown there. My workshop was such fun, everyone sort of pitched in with helpful suggestions. Don't know if I'm brave or dumb to conduct a gesneriad workshop in front of growers like Elaine Gordon and Libby Watkins. Some of the slides were their award winning plants and I more than welcomed their comments. Hints were shared. One of particular note was from Mollie Howell concerning the removal of mineral deposits on the inside of glass terrariums. She says that Lysol Toilet Bowl Cleaner will remove it. Remember, you heard it here.

Alyce Droege tells me that she is hybridizing with Streptocarpus. How wonderful to see this beautiful plant come into it's own. Bob Lubinski, from my local society, is also hybridizing some smashing Streps. Also, there have been rave reviews on *Streptocarpus* 'Georgette', which is a knock-out peachy-salmon color that blooms non-stop. Mine is almost never without at least four blooms.

My workshop brought up the fascinating subject of integrated pest management to control insect invasions. It is my intent to do an entire, separate article in the near future; watch for it.

About a year ago, I purchased a product from Florals of Fredericks, Alyce Droege's business, that I want to tell you about. It is a soil conditioner called 'Nature's Miracle' that is derived from the by-product of an old leather tannery of many years ago. I sprinkled a quarter teaspoon in a four inch pot, as directed in long-hand on the top of the jar lid. In two weeks I could see the great new growth on my violets. I just sort of scratched it into the top of the soil of some plants that really were overdue for repotting in fresh soil. This kept them in great shape for a couple of months until I had more time to pot them up. Also, I added some to my potting soil and it seems to stimulate immediate root growth.

To all you show winners at Dixie, I apologize for asking you to pose for photos, because my camera had no film. I am losing it altogether. The best variegated Columnea, in bloom, that I ever saw was in this show and now I have no record of it or the lovely lady who grew it. I could cry.

AVSA Booster Fund

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 1st - MARCH 31st

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Becker Printing Co. & Kay's Composition, Beaumont, TX in fond memory of Grace Foote, Editor Emeritus, African Violet Magazine.	100.00
Kazue Sakuma, Hachioji City, Tokyo, Japan	30.00
Central Jersey AVS, in lieu of travel expenses to Kay Lyons, Levittown, PA	5.00
Total	**$360.00**

Question Box

James Smith
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209

Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

By the time all of you read this column, this snow bird will be nesting in sunny Florida. I am looking forward to the change. My dog, Snoopy, had his chews, bones, old shoes, etc., packed last December. He has had enough of the cold, and so have I. This past March, I took a short vacation to the Clearwater area, and bought a home in Dunedin. What a beautiful area! The house has plenty of space to grow just about anything. It will be a new experience growing a whole new variety of plants indoors and out. I can't wait to get my hands on some nice tropical plants. Now comes the difficult part, finding a job! If any of you have any leads in the computer, or horticulture fields, I would appreciate a note.

Ralph and I have received so many wonderful notes from our readers telling us how much they have enjoyed this column. I will miss all of my New York State violet friends. I have belonged to the State Society for 22 years. It will not be easy to walk away without a tear falling. Enough mush! All of you will just have to come and visit!

QUESTION: *I have difficulty starting leaves. They seem to brown or turn to mush after two weeks. I usually start them in water and when they have a few roots, they are transferred to soil. In about two weeks, they die. Is there an easier way to start leaves successfully?*

ANSWER: The best way to start a leaf is to select a young-fresh leaf. You can choose one from the center rings. Actually, any leaf will root. Success depends upon the care and method selected. I find the water-in-the-jar method to be not too dependable. The leaf tends to grow and curl, making planting difficult. Roots that are developed in water are fragile and tender. They often break or rot when planted in the soil. When this happens, the leaf will have to go through the re-rooting process. This adds more time to the time already lost. The method I use was passed down to me by my Canadian friends. I think it is fool proof and I lose very few, if any, leaves. Choose a young leaf and cut it on a 45 degree angle, one inch from the base of the leaf. The cut should be made towards the front of the leaf. The potting mix should consists of one part vermiculite, one part perlite, and one part horticultural charcoal. Moisten the starting mixture thoroughly with room temperature water which contains fertilizer. Fill a 2 1/2 inch pot with this mixture. Plant the leaf close to the edge of the pot. Set the pot into a saucer (or tray) and keep it filled with the same watering solution as used on your other plants. Keep the humidity high, by enclosing your planting in a plastic bag or a transparent container. It is important to provide adequate light during the rooting period, and after the plants begin to appear. Plants should appear in about 1 month (they do for me). When the babies show at least four leaves, they can be separated and transferred to their own small pots.

QUESTION: *I grow my violets under lights, yet some of my plants grow upward with long stems, while others grow in beautiful rosettes. Some plants, even though the foliage stays flat, grows with spindly long stems. How can I avoid these gangly plants and end up with compact foliage?*

ANSWER: The phenomenon you are experiencing could be caused by a few factors. For some plants, unmanageable foliage is unavoidable. Poor breeding (hybridizing) is the culprit of most foliage problems. There is nothing you can do about it other than to be more selective when choosing young plants. A plant that shows signs of good rosette form at an early age is the best selection. Also, plant placement is an important factor. Plants tend to reach for light if the light source is not adequate. If you grow plants under lights, then move or rotate the placement of your plants to different areas on the shelf. Do this until the plant responds, giving you a nice even growth or rosette. I do this a lot with miniatures. I have found that darker foliage plants do well on the outside and ends of the shelves, as long as I rotate them a turn

each time they are watered. The lack of humidity and high temperatures will also cause petioles to become elongated and spindly. Plants require between 50% to 60% levels of humidity with temperatures between 68 to 75 degrees. I would tend to think that your problem might be just the 'nature of the beast'.

QUESTION: *I understand what to do with necks on most violets, but what do you do when a trailer gets a neck? I have trouble keeping my trailers bushy. Any suggestions?*

ANSWER: Frequent repotting will prevent necks from forming. Continuous removal of the outer rows of the violet's foliage, will produce plants with elongated crowns, or necks. To correct this situation, remove the plant from the pot and cut away at least one third of the root ball. Repot the plant into a clean pot with fresh soil. This treatment can be used on all African violets. To keep trailers bushy, I have learned that pruning the foliage at least an inch as the plant matures, keeps the growth lush and thick. 'Pinching' an inch from each stem will force new growth which promotes good form. All trailers are judged on form. This means that the foliage must be growing evenly around the pot. All trailers must have three stems growing from the main crown in order to qualify for a blue ribbon.

QUESTION: *I received my first issue of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE and read your 'Question Box'. I found it to be very helpful. My problem is: Why do leaves turn under? My violets are given TLC but this has been bothering me.*

ANSWER: Your problem could be low humidity combined with cool temperatures. Other factors could be infrequent repotting and/or poor nutrition. Check your growing practices to see if you are providing at least 50% to 60% humidity with temperatures between 68 to 75 degrees, adequate light of at least 10 hours per day, and a well balanced diet of a good fertilizer given each time the plant is watered. These are just a few of the factors, but the lack of them is usually the major culprit as to why violets do poorly.

QUESTION: *I have a violet that is three years old and it measures 25 inches across. I noticed it getting a shade of white through the leaves as if variegated. The plant is very healthy. I have several large plants and I am just an amateur grower and dearly love the hobby. I hope you can help me.*

ANSWER: I have received many questions similar to yours. Before I can answer a question, it is very helpful to know the name of the plant as well as a complete description of your growing conditions and environment. This information is very critical in giving advice. I can't give any without it. A picture is always helpful. The only reasonable answer that I can give is that you may have a variegated variety that just didn't show variegation because the growing conditions weren't suitable. If you have had a climactic change from warm to cool, this may have triggered the characteristic of variegation to appear. Variegated plants need cool temperatures in order to maintain their variegated colors. Try not to purchase unnamed plants. Perhaps if we all did this, vendors would be more particular when offering plants for sale.

QUESTION: *Is it really necessary to keep newly acquired plants in isolation from my other established collection? If it is, how long?*

ANSWER: It is vital to keep all new plants in isolation for about three months before introducing them into you growing area. I learned this valuable lesson when I purchased some very healthy-looking plants and immediately put them under the lights with my other violets. About three weeks later, I began to notice thrips. The infestation was worse on those 'healthy-looking' plants than was on my other plants. This led me to believe that those nasty little critters were already in those plants and waiting to attack. A word to the wise, looks can be deceiving! It took me three months of constant spraying to control and close to a YEAR to eradicate. SINCE AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE, I suggest that you examine plants carefully before you buy them. The following steps will help avoid problems:

1. Provide the same care to these plants as you would your other plants.
2. Purchase plants from established AVSA commercial members and advertisers.
3. Examine the centers of each flower and the soil for signs of pests. Before you leave the place of purchase, and after careful examination, remove all flowers and buds. The lady in the plant shop nearly had a stroke when I did this. After I explained the reason, she completely recovered! A little education never hurts.
4. As soon as possible, repot the plant into a clean pot using your own soil.
5. Spray the plants at least once a week with an insecticide that works well for you. Follow label directions carefully.
6. After three months, and if there are no signs of pests, it should be safe to introduce them into the plant room.
7. Follow the same steps for those plants received through the mail.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print

Registration Report

Iris Keating
149 Loretto Ct.
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs $1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00. Registration of the plant is $5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then $4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Clara Hobbs - San Antonio, TX

*__DEAN'S BLUE SKIES__ (8355) 2/10/96 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single-semidouble light blue sticktite pansy/white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Standard**

*__DEAN'S SONATA__ (8356) 2/10/96 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single light blue pansy. Mosaic variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*__DEAN'S SPRINGTIME__ (8357) 2/10/96 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single peach sticktite pansy. Mosaic variegated green, white and pink, quilted. **Compact Standard**

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Lorraine Dwyer - Ridgefield Park, NJ

*__BERGEN PRECIOUS__ (8358) 2/13/96 (L. Dwyer) Semidouble light pink ruffled large. Dark green, plain, serrated. **Large**

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Green Circle Growers - Oberlin, OH

*__ULTRA VIOLET® ASTEROID__ (8359) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble dark red sticktite ruffled pansy. Light green, plain. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® BILLY__ (8360) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single blue sticktite pansy/white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® COMET__ (8361) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single creamy white sticktite star. Light green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® COSMOS__ (8362) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single white sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® DUSK__ (8363) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark lilac sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, pointed, girl foliage. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® ECLIPSE__ (8364) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble dark red sticktite pansy/white ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® FIREBALL__ (8365) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark coral red sticktite pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® FLASH__ (8366) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single red sticktite pansy/white edge. Medium green, pointed. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® GALAXY__ (8367) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark pink sticktite pansy/wide white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® GLEAM__ (8368) 2/23/95 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble light pink sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, girl foliage. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® HALO__ (8369) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark pink sticktite pansy/thin raspberry edge. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® LUMINOUS__ (8370) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single pale pink sticktite pansy/thin raspberry edge. Medium green, pointed, hairy. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® MAJESTIC__ (8371) 2/23/96 (Green circle/Blansit) Single dark blue sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® METEOR__ (8372) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single white sticktite pansy/dark blue ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® MOONBEAM__ (8373) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble blue sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, hairy, girl foliage. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® MOONDUST__ (8374) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single blue reffled pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*__ULTRA VIOLET® MOONLIGHT__ (8375) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single sticktite pansy/light blue ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. **Compact standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® NEBULA (8376) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble dark lavender sticktite pansy/white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® ORBIT (8377) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single lavender two-tone sticktite pansy/darker eye. Medium green, pointed. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® RADIANCE (8378) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble pink sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, girl foliage. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® ROYALTY (8379) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Double purple sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® SOLAR (8380) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark red sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® SPARKLE (8381) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single medium blue sticktite star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® STARDUST (8382) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble pink sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® STARLIGHT (8383) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single light blue sticktite star/thin white edge. Dark green, pointed. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® SUNBEAM (8384) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single pink sticktite pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® SUNSET (8385) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark lavender sticktite pansy/lighter top petals, white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® SUNSPOT (8386) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single light red sticktite pansy. Dark green, pointed. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® TWILIGHT (8387) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble dark lavender sticktite pansy/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, pointed. **Standard**

*ULTRA VIOLET® VENUS (8388) 2/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/pink edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

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Margaret Gratto - Red Deer. Alberta, Canada

*DAISY'S DELIGHT (8389) 2/26/96 (M. Gratto) Single chimera pink pansy/purple stripe, dots. Light green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

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Jean Stokes - Sacramento, CA

*LITTLE TUTIMER (8390) 2/28/96 (J. Stokes) Semidouble pink frilled/darker eye, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Miniature**

*TOSCA (8391) 2/28/96 (J. Stokes) Double light pink frilled pansy/white-yellow band, green edge. Dark green, plain, pointed, quilted/red back. **Miniature**

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Hortense Pittman - San Antonio, TX

*ALAMO EXPLOSION (8392) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double red large/darker tips. Medium green, plain. **Large**

*ALAMO FLAME (8393) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble coral large. Dark green, plain. **Large**

*ALAMO ODE (8394) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble lavender large. Dark green, plain. **Large**

*ALAMO SUNSHINE (8395) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double white/yellow. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

*BABY BRAD(8396) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/fuchsia marking. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*FROSTY FUN (8397) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double white large. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*GOLDEN NUGGET (8398) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Single creamy white sticktite/bright yellow. Mosaic variegated dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

*GOLDEN TOUCH (8399) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/yellow. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*KNIGHT MAGIC (8400) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/light pink rayed eye. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Miniature**

*LAVENDER RAGE (8401) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double lavender. Dark green, plain. **Semiminature**

*LEMON COOKIE (8402) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double creamy white/yellow. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*LEMON TART (8403) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/some yellow. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Miniature**

*MARLA HENDERSON (8404) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/fuchsia streaks. Variegated medium green and white, wavy. **Large**

*MEMORY MAKER (8405) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose/pink frilled edge. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*MOON CRAZE(8406) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble blush white. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*PARTY FRILLS (8407) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double creamy white ruffled. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*PETITE FANTASY (8408) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double rose-pink/purple fantasy. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Miniature**

*PINK SKIES (8409) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double pink/white. Variegated medium green and white, glossy. **Semiminiature**

*RED BANDITIO (8410) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark red. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

*ROWDY RAY (8411) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose-pink frilled/darker fantasy. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*SPIN-OUT (8412) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark rose/white back. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*SPRING PEACH (8413) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/peach tips. Mosaic variegated green and white, plain. **Miniature**

*STORMY SANDY (8414) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose/raspberry fantasy, edge. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*TEEN GLOW (8415) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia frilled bell/white marking. Variegated dark green and white, plain, glossy. **Miniature**

*TEEN QUEEN (8416) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink/raspberry fantasy. Variegated green and white, plain. **Miniature**

*TEXAS BUTTERCUP (8417) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble white/yellow and pink. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*TEXAS TEEN (8418) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark red pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**

*TINKER BELLS (8419) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double pink frilled bell. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*TOUCHABLE (8420) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*WHITE DEW (8421) 3/8/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

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Elizabeth Wasche - Brigantine, NJ

*DOUBLE TROUBLE (8422) 3/9/96 (E. Wasche) Semidouble pale pink/blue fantasy. Dark green, longifolia, pebbled, glossy/red back. **Large**

*HONEY GINGER (8423) 3/9/96 (E. Wasche) Double creamy white frilled pansy/tan on top petals. Mosaic variegated green, pink and tan, quilted, wavy. **Large**

*SIBERIAN MOON (8424) 3/9/96 (E. Wasche) Double white ruffled pansy. Mosaic variegated green and white ruffled pansy. Mosaic variegated green and white, pointed, wavy. **Standard**

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Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

*MOUNTAIN SHADOWS (8425) 3/25/96 (D. Harrington) Double lavender-pink pansy/purple fantasy. Medium-dark green, ovate, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

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Yvonne Lambert - Tottenham, Ontario, Canada

*VON'S BABY JAY (8426) 3/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Single-semidouble white pansy/blue eye, edge. Light green, plain. **Semiminiature**

*VON'S CHERUB (8427) 3/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Single light pink sticktite frilled pansy/darker eye. Variegated medium green and white, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

*VON'S CHRISTMAS TOY (8428) 3/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Double fuchsia pansy/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*VON'S SIMPLE SIMON (8429) 3/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Single purple sticktite pansy. Dark green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

*VON'S SMALL GIFT (8430) 3/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Single mauve two-tone sticktite pansy. Variegated medium green and white, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

REGISTRATION CHANGES

*EDWARD'S DELIGHT (8083) Please change blossoms to variable white-green frilled edge.

NAME RESERVATIONS

Norma Weir - Lake Quivira, KS 66106
*Maggie's Cherubim * Maggie's Dear Dorothy * Maggie's Jelly Bean * Maggie's Seraphim * Maggie's Sweet Baby

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Barbara Goodsell - Glenview, IL
*Blue Lace

*****

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN
*Black Plum * Duluth

*****

Don Ness - White Bear Lake, MN
(Each of the following is preceded by the name Ness') * Bashful Blue * Blue Confetti * Busy Bee * Celebration * Cherry Reflection * China Blue * Coral Bouquet * Coral Kiss * Coral Queen * Coral Silk * Echo Blue * Echo Pink * Echo Red * Feather Pink * Feather White * Georgia Peach * Gold Galore * Good Show * Grand Style * Honey Bun * Little Echo * Lunar Blue * Morning Dew * Morning Star * Mystique * Orange Pekoe * Painted Red * Pink Confetti * Pink Rhubarb * Pixie Grin * Pixie Pout * Powder Pink * Pretty Print * Red Silk * Red Velvet * Silk Reflection * Starburst * Starcrest * Winterscape

NAME RESERVATION RENEWALS

Don Ness - White Bear Lake, MN
(Each of the following is preceded by the name Ness')
Angel Gold * Angel Kiss * Angel Lace * Cherub's Smile * Ciinnamon Gal * Cranberry Lace * Crimson Fire * Dancing Red * Fantasy Gold * Freckle Face * Frosty Etchings * Itsy Bitsy * Kinda Lucky * Laced Satin * Little Dipper * Pink Illusion * Red Illusion * Sleek Amber * Stardust Glitter * Viking Angel * Viking Lass

1996 AVSA Awards

HALL OF FAME AWARD
Presented to
MARY BOLAND
Alexandria, Virginia

The Hall of Fame Award was presented to Mary Boland.

Mary has been a member of the AVSA for 37 years, a life member since 1969, a master judge since 1987 and a teacher since 1974. She has received The Honorary One-Year Membership Award, Continuing Service Award, Honorary Life Membership Award and the Distinguished Service Award.

Her involvement in the AVSA began many years ago in the late 60's when she served on the Membership and Promotion Committee, a committee she has served on many times. Mary has served as a director, and in all offices of the AVSA including President from 1989-1991. She has chaired the Booster Fund, was the Master Variety List compiler of MVL #4 in 1983, chaired Plant Registration and International Code of Nomenclature, the Ways and Means Committee and was Moderator of the Beginner's Forum.

While Mary was president she frequently flew to the Beaumont office to assist wherever needed and was also instrumental in finding the AVSA a permanent home.

Mary hasn't missed a convention since 1965 when she attended her first in Baltimore. She has traveled extensively, even to Bermuda, to judge and teach judging schools.

She has been a member of the Old Dominion African Violet Society since 1961 and is a charter member of Potomac Council of African Violet Judges. Mary also belongs to many other state and regional organizations.

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD
To JANET RIEMER
Pennington, New Jersey

The Honorary Lifetime Membership Award was awarded to Janet Riemer.

Janet has been a member of the AVSA since 1964 and became a Master Judge in 1995. She served as secretary to the AVSA for 9 years and as AVSA Archivist since the position was created. Janet has also served on the Building Fund Committee since its inception. She has chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on Board Revisions, Policies and Procedures and the By-Laws Committee. At the 1984 AVSA Convention she served as Show Vice Chairman and Entries Chairman. Janet has also served on the Nominating Committee and was a director from 1985 to 1986.

Janet received an Honorary One-Year Membership in 1978, Hudson Memorial Award in 1984 and the Continuing Service Award in 1987. In 1986, she helped with the publication "The AVSA - 40 years" and helped with the commemorative publication for our 50th year celebration.

Locally, Janet has been a member of the Union County Chapter, AVSA since 1969, having served as president 3 times, a member of the Tristate African Violet Council since 1970, the New Jersey Council of African Violet Judges and is a Life Member of African Violet Society of Canada.

SPECIAL CITATION FOR CONTINUING SERVICE
To ESTHER EDWARDS WELLS
Liberty, Missouri

In recognition for her continuing service, the African Violet Society of America issued this Special Citation to Esther Edwards Wells.

Esther has been a member of the AVSA since 1981 and is currently serving as 1st Vice-President, chairs the Salary Committee, and is a member of the Commercial Sales & Exhibits Committee, the By-Laws Committee and the Publications Committee. She has also served as AVSA Director, on the Convention Committee, chaired the Awards Committee, chaired the Nominating Committee and served as Convention Chairman for the 1989 AVSA Convention in Kansas City for which she received the Honorary One-Year Membership Award.

On the local and regional levels Esther is a charter member and Parliamentarian for the Missouri Valley African Violet Council, a charter member of the Midwest African Violet Judges Council and a member of Mid-America African Violet Society.

Esther Wells is also receiving this award for the six years she dedicated to the AVSA as Awards Chairman. During that time she rewrote the awards section of the Convention Manual, computerized and reorganized data from prior years and simplified the awards process at the convention.

HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP
To BILL LYONS
Levittown, Pennsylvania

In recognition for outstanding service to his local affiliates, the Hudson Memorial Awards went to Bill Lyons. Bill is a lifetime AVSA member, senior judge and teacher.

Bill is a charter member of African Violet Society of Lower Bucks County, PA, established 21 years ago. He has served numerous times in all offices of the club, including president for 6 years. In the 19 years that he has served as yearbook chairman, the club has earned 19 blue ribbons, one white rosette and 4 blue rosettes. He has also served as show chairman many times.

Bill helped to start the African Violet Society of Burlington, NJ, the African Violet Club of Morris County, NJ, and is currently assisting with the formation of a new club near Atlantic City, NJ.

One of Bill's specialties is giving programs on "Designs Made Simple", "Hybridization" and "You and Your AVSA".

When the African violet stamp was released, Bill organized an educational table and plant giveaway at a local post office.

He has been a member of the Tristate African Violet Council for 18 years and served as president. He is a member of the New York State African Violet Society and a member of the New Jersey Judges Council.

On the national level, Bill is active in the AVSA, having served as a director from 1990-1993. He was the Vice-Show Chairman of the Lancaster, PA, Convention in 1993. Bill is currently serving on the Membership and Promotion Committee and as Booster Fund Chairman. He also received the Honorary One-Year Membership Award in 1994.

TINARI GREENHOUSES MEMBERSHIP AWARD
To
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

In recognition for obtaining the most new AVSA memberships during the year 1995, the Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award was presented to the African Violet Society of Minnesota. Under the leadership of Palma Trapp, the AVS of Minnesota signed up 36 new members during this year. This is the fourth consecutive year for this group to receive the Tinari Membership Award. Congratulations, and keep up the good work for AVSA.

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD
To JIM OWENS
COLUMBUS, OHIO

In recognition for his timeless service to the AVSA as a member of the Convention Committee, Tour Director since 1992 and Vice-Chairman of the Convention Manual Committee, the Honorary One-Year Membership Award was presented to Jim Owens.

With over 30 years of computer expertise, Jim has diligently input the entire Convention Manual on his computer since the St. Louis Convention last year. He has created an appendix of all the forms and reindexed the entire manual. At this time, the manual is complete and has been approved by the Board for printing.

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD
To ELLEN & BILL BECKERMAN
Fayetteville, New York

In recognition for their contribution to the production of our 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book, the Honorary One-Year Membership Award is presented to Ellen and Bill Beckerman.

Ellen has been a member of AVSA since 1994, and her enthusiasm for African violets and the AVSA is boundless. When speaking with our editor last summer, Ellen learned about the anniversary book project. Offering to help in any way possible, she volunteered to reproduce all the color photos needed from fifty years of back issues.

On their own time, and at their own expense, Ellen and her husband Bill reproduced photos from as far back as 1947. This has enabled our members to see plants that set the standards of their day, and has saved the AVSA a great cost in the production of the Anniversary book.

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD
To FRANCES KING
San Diego, California

In recognition for service to AVSA, the Honorary One-Year Membership Award was presented to Frances King.

Frances has been a member of the AVSA for over 30 years and is a life member. She is also a master judge and teacher. Frances has been a member of the Shows and Judges Committee for 10 years and has never missed a meeting. She has also been the AVSA Senior Judges Examiner for the past 8 years. She has taught many judges schools and is a very knowledgeable judge and teacher.

On the local level Frances has been a prime promoter of the AVSA, organizing three clubs in the San Diego area. She founded the Balboa Park African Violet Society in 1974, is a charter member and has served in all offices, except treasurer, and serviced as the club's 1st president. Frances also founded the San Diego Daytime African Violet Society, is a charter member and served as the club's 1st president. She has also held all offices, except treasurer. Frances has also been a member of African Violet Council of Southern California for 20 years. She is also a charter member of the Southern California Judges Council.

Frances received this award for her many years of service as Senior Judges Examiner and for the years she has spent on the Shows and Judges Committee.

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD
To FRAN RUSSOM
St. Louis, Missouri

In recognition for serving as Convention Show Chairman for the St. Louis 1995 AVSA Convention, the Honorary One-Year Membership Award was presented to Fran Russom. She has been a member of the AVSA for over 10 years and is a senior judge.

Fran is a member of the Gateway African Violet Club, Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council, St. Louis Judges Council and the Missouri Valley African Violet Council. She is an expert designer and gives many workshops in and around Missouri and surrounding states.

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD
To MARILYN EVENSEN
Ballwin, Missouri

In recognition for serving as Convention Chairman for the St. Louis 1995 AVSA Convention, the Honorary One-Year Membership Award was presented to Marilyn Evensen. Marilyn is long time member of the AVSA and is a judge.

On the local and regional levels, Marilyn is a member and past president of Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council, is a member and past president of the Pied Pipers African Violet Club, is a member, and is currently serving as President, of St. Louis African Violet Judges Council and is also a member of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council.

AVSA 1996 National Show Winners

Best of Show
Beginners Luck
Kathi Lahti

2nd Best in Show
Definitely Darryl
Kathy Lahti

3rd Best in Show
Bertha
Betty Ann Lewandowski

Best AVSA Collection of Standards
Magnolia • Joelle • Optimara Paris
Gene Loveland

Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis
Definitely Darryl • Sugar Bear Blues • Beginners Luck
Kathi Lahti

2nd Best AVSA Collection of Standards
Victorian Velvet • Looking Glass • Midnight Magic
Betty Ann Lewandowski

2nd Best AVSA Collection of Minis or Semiminis
Cirelda • Beacon Trail • Rob's Sticky Wicket
Linda Lube'

Best Holtkamp Memorial Collection
Optimara Little Crystal • Optimara Little Amethyst • Optimara Rose Quartz
Palma Trapp

2nd Best Holtkamp Memorial Collection
Optimara Little Crystal • Optimara Little Pearl • Optimara Little Rhodonite
Kathy Lahti

3rd Best Holtkamp Memorial Collection
Optimara Arkansas • Optimara Kentucky• Optimara Barbados
Mrs. Wallace Behnke

Best Miniature
Spring Peach
Alice Grundy

Best Semiminiature
Beginners Luck
Kathy Lahti

Best Trailer
Tiny Wood Trail
Alice Grundy

Best Other Gesneriad
Chirita subrhomboidea
Elizabeth Behnke

Best Saintpaulia Species
Saintpaulia ionantha
Betty Ann Lewandowski

Sweepstakes in Amateur Horticulture
28 Blues
Pat Richards

Sweepstakes Runner-up in Amateur Horticulture
27 Blues
Betty Ann Lewandowski

Best in Design
Olympic Year
Judith M. Carter

2nd Best in Design
Our Golden Anniversary
Aldene (Dee) Short

3rd Best in Design
In The Beginning
Dolores Gibbs

Sweepstakes in Design
8 Blues
Fran Russom

Sweepstakes Runner-up in Design
7 Blues
Beryl Wood

Best Display Table
Rob's Mini-O-Lets

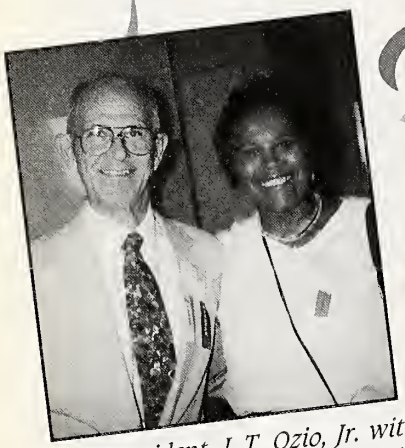
2nd Best Display Table
Kent's Flowers

3rd Best Display Table
The Violet Showroom

4th Best Display Table
Midland Violets

AVSA Celebrates 50 Golden Years in Atlanta

Georgene Albrecht and Anne Tinari



AVSA President, L.T. Ozio, Jr. with Hattieann Gilbert, President of the Bermuda AVS

Arthur Boland & Bill Foster

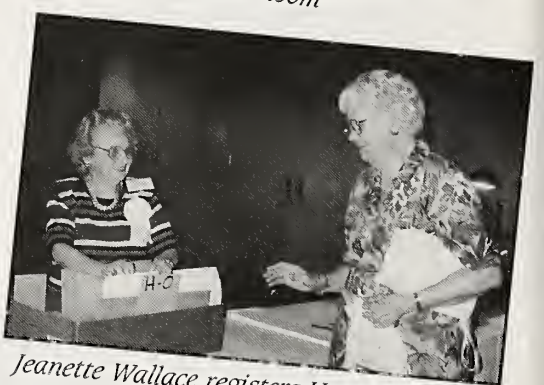
Gerri Goins & Jane Rexilius

Jackie Jones

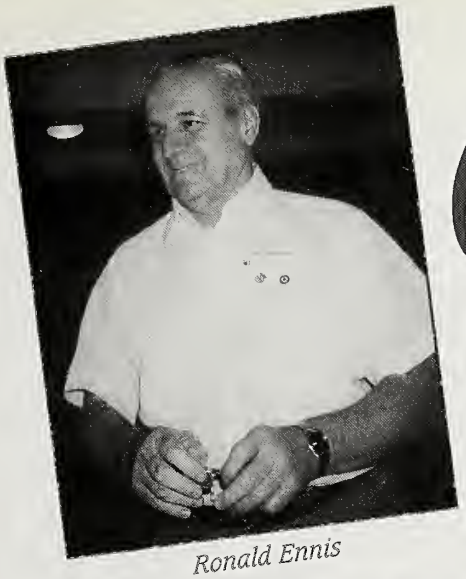
New Board Member,
AVM Columnist Pat Richards

Charles Wells (R) waiting to let eager shoppers into the Commercial Sales Room

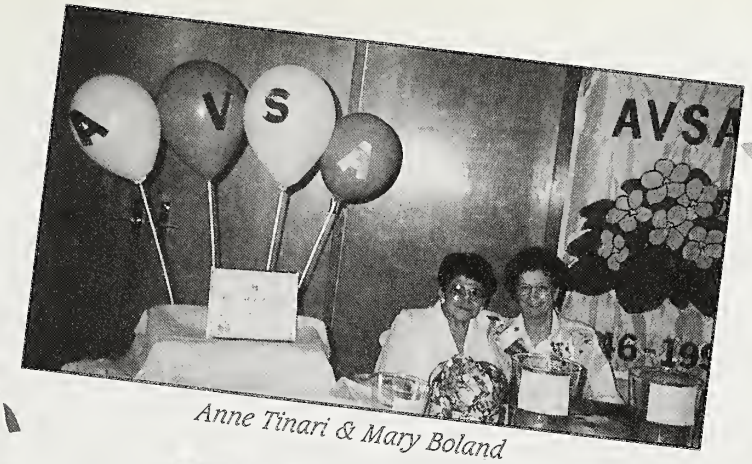
Dale Martens, Jane Sherer, Karyn Cichocki



Jeanette Wallace registers Harriet Churchill

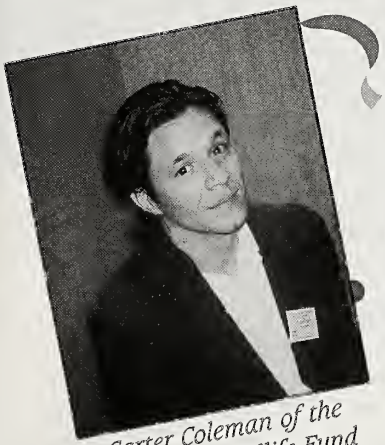


Ronald Ennis



Anne Tinari & Mary Boland

Atlanta Hostesses, Laura Walker, Kathy Spissman, Margie Kotliar



Carter Coleman of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund

Agatha Garrison

Melanie Winston

Iris Keating, Yvonne Ozio, Bev Promersberger

Mary Hill

Joan Halford & Ruth Warren

Ellen & Bill Beckerman

Thinking Small

Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004

Summertime, and the growing is easy. During these hot months I like to lessen the amount of fertilizer used on my plants because I believe they know it's hot outside and that summer is not a prime growing season. At the first sign of cooler nights their regular growing regimen is resumed. While I don't recommend this practice to everyone, it is something to consider if your growing area is quite warm.

In this segment we shall wrap up our general introduction to growing the small ones. Our topics will be lights, growing considerations, and general care. With this, we should all be experts on the small ones and have no excuse for not growing them. By now it should be readily apparent if you can grow standard violets, you can grow the small ones, too.

Shedding Some Light On The Subject

An ideal violet has nicely overlapping foliage with no spaces showing through. This is accomplished through adequate lighting. If your plants show any of the following symptoms, your lighting may be inadequate: growing upward toward the light in a "v" shape, clearly visible spaces between the leaves which allows the petioles and soil to be seen, and most important, a lack of blooms. There are several solutions to making more light available to your violets including increasing the amount of time light is available, raising the intensity, and using better lights. Because lighting is one of the major areas the culture of small ones and standards differ, let's spend some time discussing it.

A Matter Of Time

The amount of time the lights should be left on needn't differ from the standards. Most growers use a 12 hour cycle, with some getting by on as little as eight. You can experiment with your plants to see what cycle gives you the best results. Another consideration is the location of your plants: do your plants get a lot of "extra" light from another source (sunlight, other plant lights, or a highly condensed growing area) that reduces your light needs? For example, my growing area has large windows on three walls. It is an eleven square foot room devoted solely to violets, packed wall to wall with shelves and lights. Hence, my violets get a lot of indirect light and believe it or not, get by just fine on eight hours of direct light per day. The lesson here is, know your growing environment and base your culture on that, not someone else's!

Go The Distance

The small ones, unlike their larger brothers, do much better when grown closer to lights. Remember when I stated in my first article that my shelf makers, instead of listening to my needs, addressed their own whims? I ended up with shelves that were 15 inches apart in height, and after putting plants on reservoirs and installing lights that left a mere five to seven inches of clearance. During the first few years I tried to grow standard starter plants there, but it didn't take long to realize these shelves were destined to grow small ones. Succinctly, small ones do best if grown five to seven inches from the lights. Many good growers put their small showplants even closer when preparing for show with the benefits being, if done correctly, masses of bloom that literally hide the plants.

Set Your Goals

The type of fluorescent light you put in your setup will depend on your ultimate goal. If you are a hobbyist and grow violets simply to enjoy them, cool white bulbs will do. If you are interested in the selling and production of violets, a growth lamp, such as a Gro-lux standard, would best suit your needs. These lamps also suit the showman because of the optimum performance that results from their use. If expense is a problem, try mixing the cool white and a

Continued on page 26

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growth lamp, being sure to rotate your plants so they will spend equal time under both lamps.

There are many other types of lamps, and under certain conditions, and depending on your goal, these lamps may suit your set up. As with any changes you make, experiment with these lamps slowly and carefully before you get too invested in them.

A "Green" Growing Room

I must point out our light-based hobby does not mesh very well with environmental concerns. Not only do we use energy to burn our lights, but the cool white fluorescent lights have a chemical in them that does not break down and will become environmentally hazardous. The ultimate solution would be to grow in natural sunlight as did our violet ancestors, but because most of us would be hesitant to part with the ease and benefits of artificial lighting, we must find reasonable alternatives.

One option is to use an environmentally safe light manufactured by Sylvania that is now available. A second option is to remember something our mothers reminded us of every summer: darker colors (greens, browns and blacks) absorb light, while lighter colors reflect. To make even better use of your artificial light consider placing a reflective material on the tops and bottoms of your shelves, and the supportive material around them. Suggestions would include using aluminum foil, mylar, white plastic, or painting your shelves white. This makes optimum use of your lights by reflecting back light that misses your plants, thus brightening your growing area even more. Ideally, you should be able to cut back the hours your lights are on!

Becoming Culturally Aware

There are a few general considerations to be mentioned before we move on, beginning with humidity. Violets prosper with a humidity of 40 to 60%. Lower humidity will result in smaller blooms, slower growth, and potential bud drop. To raise it, misting can help, but this needs to be done several times daily (in fact, almost continually) to truly benefit your plants. Instead, try placing pebble trays that allow water to evaporate from exposed surfaces around your violets. This is a lot less trying for you, and is much more reliable for your violets.

On the other hand, humidity approaching or exceeding 80% could lead to an environment ideal to the spread of diseases. The condition of your plants would have to be monitored carefully to prevent the loss of an entire collection. Having said that, let me tell you a story. I cannot grow "Precious Pink". For years I have tried to grow many different plants of it, from starter to established, obtained from many different sources. Believe me, I can grow a beautiful plant, but cannot get it to bloom. Having told this story to last year's audience at convention, one listener suggested enclosing the plant in a terrarium to raise the humidity to 80% or more. I have not yet done so, but suggest you may try it if your experience is similar to mine. This once again shows that plants are like people: each one is different and each one has different needs!

Temperature is another basic factor in growing good violets. The usually accepted range is 60 to 80 degrees. Temperatures cooler than that for a long period of time will result in frozen plants, temperatures warmer will eventually result in plants turning to "mush". Violets can tolerate warmer temperatures if they are lightly fertilized with a mild, non-burning fertilizer such as fish emulsion.

Good air circulation is critical. Air moving across the leaf surface has a cooling effect that will aid in the plant's survival during warm weather. In fact, keeping air circulating constantly will benefit plants generally. Have you ever noticed as you drive along the road in summertime that the weeds immediately adjacent to the road are nicely compact, strong and healthier? (I'm not kidding—bear with me here!) This is a result of the movement of air around the plants, stimulating transpiration (the movement of food throughout the plant), resulting in a healthier, more vigorous weed. The effect is similar to exercise for us. It gets our blood moving, invigorating our cells, and expanding our circulatory system. (Enough of Biology 101!) Oh yes, constant air circulation also inhibits the formation of disease organisms by not allowing them a nice, comfortable place to land. Trust me, it is to your violet's benefit to keep air circulating around them 24 hours a day.

Caring For Your Little Guys

Small ones need to repotted more often than the standards. I can think of no other reason for this than the fact that, as we discussed before, they use so little soil that the detrimental fertilizer salts build up more rapidly. Also, unlike the standards, they are usually repotted into the same size pot instead of constantly being moved up. Because of this, their roots are disturbed to a greater extent and more often. Repotting must be done very carefully and gently. Because their petioles are so short, and frequently so stiff, repotting is not easy. Great care must be used in trying to fill the soil in. Some growers suggest letting plants dry out slightly, thus letting them become slightly limp. While I have not tried this with my small ones, it is a possible solution. Remember, when repotting, care should be taken not to compact the soil. Fortunately the small ones are a bit tougher than the standards and can withstand the rigors of repotting a little better.

If you can't repot often, the soil should be leached instead. Leaching is the process by which warm water is poured through the soil until the runoff is clear, rinsing harmful fertilizer salts out. An additional consideration is

"water roots": those roots a plant will send out the bottom holes and down a wick. It seems the small ones are much more eager to do this than standards, probably, again, because of the small amount of soil they're grown in. Because of this, I will snip these off when they form, rather than use it as a sign of the need to repot as I do with standards.

Two very problematic habits with the small ones are their tendency to grow crooked and keeping them down to size. I have no solution to either of these. Small ones descended from trailing African violets, hence their inherent nature to grow off center. Hybridizers are slowly breeding this bad trait out of the small ones, but occasionally, the little guys still go crooked. Any effort I make at attempting to right the plant proves futile. If you really like a small one with this tendency, take a leaf and start all over again. As the plant matures be sure and keep it directly under the lights and turn it frequently to prevent it from inadvertently leaning to reach the light.

Keeping small ones down to size is a vexing topic and again, there seems to be no sure-fire remedy. Suggestions include: restricting fertilizer, not crowding, crowding, growing cool, using smaller pots, and growing closer to the lights (resulting in a more compact plant). Of all of these, using smaller pots yields the best results for me, although there are some plants that simply want to grow well and will not be restricted by any means! I believe this subject merits a future column all by itself!

To Sum It All Up

Whew! We have covered a lot in this article and really left a lot unsaid. In fact, over the last five articles almost all I know about growing the small ones has been poured forth. In future articles, I hope to pick up some of the finer points left unsaid, and delve a little deeper into some aspects of their culture. I welcome your suggestions regarding topics and what you'd like to discuss in more depth.

Next issue we'll take a break from growing small ones and will review convention events: winners, new introductions, etc. I'll also have the results of the "Your Favorite Small Ones" poll. Take care!

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Hessel

by Nancy Sneed
Copperas Cove, TX

The AVSA Master Variety List states: "Hessel (5094) 11/10/82 (S. Whitaker) Double Pink. Plain, quilted. Standard." A beautiful plant.

I also know Hessel as my aunt, Hessel Leer. Due to her love of African violets and caring about passing

Hessel

along her interest in them to others, we have a lovely violet in her honor. What a wonderful tribute to have an African violet named for you!

Aunt Hessel lives in Scottsdale, AZ., and is a founding member of the Desert Sun African Violet Club. Still active in her late 80's, her love of the beautiful violet is still being passed along. I may be one of the latest "catches" for her!

My husband, James, and I visit her at twice a year, coming from our Texas home. I wish we lived closer so we could be with her more. As a child, I would spend some summer time with her and Uncle Milton. What wonderful memories! We've always stayed in touch and through the years shared joy and sorrow. With the passing of Uncle Milton, her husband of more than 50 years, our bond has become greater. Each visit we had would always produce the "ooohs and ahhhs" and amazement at the plants she was so carefully tending. More and more information was imparted and the "line" was beginning to be reeled in! After seven years of this careful watching and admiration (I couldn't bear to take one of these plants and watch it go to plant heaven!), I decided to give it a try. Aunt Hessel didn't know it at the time, but I had purchased an African violet at a store to see if I could keep it alive. Better to do that one in, if that were inevitable, than one of hers! I returned from our 1994 Christmas visit the proud keeper of 16 various varieties of leaves!

Well, little did I know what I had just bestowed upon myself and husband! Tended with a watchful eye and loving care, the leaves began to produce babies. What a joy! I had made it this far with great success. But come about April, I had a big awakening. What to do with all the new arrivals! Luckily, Aunt Hessel had helped me get the right kind of soil and a few starter cups. Watching her repot and tend the plants did not pass the knack along by osmosis! You also learn by doing! Some babies fell by the wayside due to inexperience, but I did have plenty (some leaves produced seven or eight!). Little do I have to say what that led to. The single, growlight spotlight was not enough any longer. We got a 3-tier light stand—more plants; we added a 5-tier light stand—more plants....oh, what did I get into?

Today, with over 75 varieties and a lot of help from my husband, we are enjoying the world of African violets. We are preparing for our first show with our home club, Cen-Tex Rainbow African Violet Club. The many wonderful members here mentor us like Aunt Hessel does, and we take in every tidbit we can.

Maybe sometime I can instill the love of African violets in someone else like Aunt Hessel did for me. But I do know one thing - no one else could do it with the love and passion she has for the African violet because it takes a beautiful person to do that. With love and thanks to Aunt Hessel.

Nancy and Hessel

COLORFUL LANGUAGE

by Frank Martin
Seattle, WA

Even without the blessing of color, a flowering plant would be beautiful, a living piece of artwork. But when color enters the picture, an indescribable new dimension appears, and the flower speaks to us. Usually, we react instinctively to this language, comprehending on the same mute basis in which the message was sent, but we can gain even more appreciation of our violets' blooms if we consciously consider what colors mean to us.

Each of the basic colors found in *Saintpaulias* (white, pink, red, violet-blue, green, yellow, and purple) has a special significance, just as each color of the spectrum has its own particular optical wavelength and position in the rainbow. The light that is so vital to our plants' lives, is also vital to our perception of the pigments in leaves and blossoms, not only because it illumines them, but because each pigment reflects a different part of the spectrum. This means that the various hues have their origin in the light that falls upon our flowers; the flowers themselves merely select a certain hue to pass on to our eyes. White flowers are the most generous in this regard, for they reflect all the visible parts of the spectrum at once.

By far the brightest and most resplendent color when struck by light, white is the age-old symbol of purity. It is often mistakenly regarded as a non-color, but is in fact the most dynamic, for it is a unique blend of all the other hues. Every color of the rainbow is contained in white light, yet not as a mixture, for each one retains its own distinct wavelength. The purity and hidden power that white symbolizes is appropriate for a color mystically associated with the angelic and the heavenly. Few things look more like Cloud Nine than a profusion of white blossoms floating above leaves of green.

Perhaps the least celebrated color, for it is common to virtually every thriving *Saintpaulia*, green is the symbol of growth and progress. It is the color of spring, of renewed life and hope, evoking images of the verdant forests and the lush abundance of a garden paradise. Since the sun provides the energy for all this growth, it is appropriate that at the center of every normal African violet flower we find a "heart" of sunny yellow, the color of cheer and happiness. A *Saintpaulia* blooming in the sun, its yellow stamens gleaming with a life of their own, is a plant whose blossoms give new meaning to the poetic phrase "smiling flowers".

Other warm, energetic colors such as red and pink, being associated with blood, signify life and vitality. Pink means health and pep, as the phrase "in the pink" suggests; whereas red, the color of the heart, means love. Though many come close, we have yet to see a truly red African violet blossom. It is, as the song says, "what the world needs now."

True blue is another color not yet found in Saintpaulias. It is the symbol of honesty and spiritual inspiration. The blue vastness and mystery of the heavens and the deep blue sea are legendary. It is hard to imagine a better reminder of an idyllic, Garden of Eden world than the blue flowers and greenery of our leafy friends.

The combination of blue and red, purple has always been connected with glory. In the ancient world, purple clothing was worn as a badge of honor by the social elite, especially by kings and emperors. In modern times, the purple heart is awarded as a final badge of glory and honor. What better color for the first African violets in their native habitat, anticipating their discovery and future position as worldwide Queen of Houseplants? Surely it can be no accident that in their native Tanzania there is found a rare gemstone of the same deep blue-violet color as *S.* Ionantha. These rare crystals, called tanzanite, come in either violet or green and are found nowhere else in the world. They share their purple splendor with that of our violets' ancestors, resting in Africa's Eastern Arc mountains like royalty awaiting transport down the nearby Nile. "Emerald jewels", Dr. Jon C. Lovett, in a recent issue of this magazine, called these mountains set with green and purple gems. I am sure many readers will agree that mountains and tanzanite are not the only precious jewels in that African landscape. *Saintpaulia*, that gem of a plant, a missionary of cheer from the land many consider the original Garden of Eden, has every right to wear the royal purple.

Moving is Murder *in More Ways Than One*

by Bev Promersberger
Monument, CO

Virginia - Louisiana - Colorado

I have moved so often in the last few years that the usual question at convention has been, "Where are you from this year?" So often we hear stories about violet growers who share their morbid experiences about losing their plant collection in the process of moving. Usually, they refer to getting caught in a snow storm and the plants freezing or travelling south and the plants melting in the sun. Travelling to a different climate is only half the problem. **Moving is** indeed **murder in more ways than one**. I am going to share with you not only my experiences with two moves but also some of the ways to overcome the difficulties.

TRANSPORTATION

The first difficulty is of course transporting the plants. I knew several months in advance that we would be moving. That is definitely an advantage. I had a chance to remove leaves from every variety I wanted to save. I placed two leaves of each standard variety in a solo cup, three leaves of each miniature and semiminiature variety in a solo cup, and a trailer stem of each variety in a solo cup. With a few months notice, this process allowed me to make sure everything was rooted. Then I felt comfortable selling the mature plants (in order to buy new varieties at convention, of course). That still left the chimeras and a few special varieties that I did not want to propagate at the last moment. Those plants received a shave as far back as possible so no part of the plant extended beyond the edge of the pot.

"I found I could fit about 25 Solo cups snugly, side by side, in the bottom."

Over the years I had collected special styrofoam boxes from pet stores. These boxes were originally used for shipping fish. Some pet store owners are happy to get rid of them at no cost and will even call you when they arrive. Others have found there is a market for them (to violet growers) and choose to sell them, usually for a nominal fee. Either way, they are a good deal and I find many uses for them, including moving and carrying show plants. These boxes are available in many shapes and sizes. Most are about seventeen inches square and a foot high. They have a lip halfway up that is about 1/2 inch larger than the bottom all the way around. I found I could fit about 25 solo cups snugly, side by side, in the bottom. If I placed a strong piece of cardboard on top of the lip, like a shelf, I could place another 36 solo cups on top of the cardboard in the same box. I covered the cardboard with foil so the cardboard would not get damp and sag. Thus, 55 varieties in one box!

Those plants that were not in solo cups I placed side by side in the miscellaneous size boxes. Because those plants were cut back to the edge of the pot, I could place them so they also fit snugly. Thus, I was able to transport 450 varieties in the back of a station wagon from Virginia to Louisiana and **again** from Louisiana to Colorado, AND a loving husband. I do recommend that if your move is more than one day's travel time you remove the boxes from the car at night to your motel room, or place of rest, moving the lids enough to allow air to penetrate in each box. You can still stack the boxes so they do not clutter the room. The boxes protect well around heat and cold but leaving the boxes sealed too long without air circulation could cause other problems you **do not want.**

"You can still stack the boxes so they do not clutter the room."

READJUSTMENT

Now, assuming you have reached your new home, violets survived. You may still have many challenges ahead. I did! The problems I encountered were greater than the actual transportation of the plants. I was so "ready" I thought I had it made!

First of all, I moved from Virginia, a **mild** humid climate, to Louisiana, a **very** humid climate. I discovered that the great soil mix I brought from Virginia to Louisiana was too heavy for the additional humidity. A much lighter soil mix was needed to allow the soil to breathe and to prevent root rot, powdery mildew and other associated problems. I also discovered my conditions in Louisiana were definitely not conducive to foliar feeding. In an effort to make up for the lack of foliar feeding, I found it helpful to change my fertilizing program. If that was not change enough, I found that the water in our rented home contained rust that really played havoc with the plants. However, knowing it was a temporary home, I lived with the water and looked forward to a better water source in the future.

We didn't know if our eventual move would be local or not. As it turned out it was to Colorado. This change of climate presented a whole new series of challenges. I thought, "Great, I can return to foliar feeding!" How wrong I was! Even though the climate is extremely dry, because of the extreme changes in temperature from day to evening, the foliar feeding increased the presence of powdery mildew. Even a fan circulating 24 hours a day did not solve the problem. I attacked the mildew problem and discontinued foliar feeding permanently. That seemed to be the only answer. That problem solved, I noticed the leaves on my violets were reacting the same way they did to the rust infected water in Louisiana.

With our new home, our water source was "well" water. I always remember hearing "well" water was good for violets. I was also informed by our builder that it was good "well" water. Then why the reaction to the plant leaves? I was quite frustrated at this point, to say the least. In having the water tested, we discovered an excess of chemicals. In order to test that the chemicals in the water were the real culprit, I switched to distilled water for my show plants. Voila, the distilled water eliminated the problem. There are several water purifying systems on the market. The distilled water is a temporary cure until we decide what to do.

In conclusion, I want to make some suggestions if you are dreading the prospect of moving: 1) Check your local pet stores to see if you can obtain the styrofoam shipping boxes, 2) As soon as you have relocated, join the nearest affiliate (local violet club), talk to the more established members about the soil mix, about foliar feeding if that is part of your program, about the water, and any problems common in your new climate.

HAVE A HAPPY MOVE!

Aphids Are Everywhere!

by Janet Bandy

The Aphid comes in many species, in all tiny sizes and colors, and is found in cultivated gardens, landscapes, greenhouses, and even in the wild. Their favorite diet is the young, tender shoots and sap of most every kind of vegetation. They have an amazing capacity for reproduction and destruction, and can transmit viruses and disease. In the greenhouse, all aphids are female and the young are born live and begin to feed immediately after birth. In some species, it only takes a few days for the newborn to become an adult. Some are winged (alate) and some are wingless (aptera). It will be the wingless alates that will leave the group to start new colonies.

If there have not been any toxic pesticides used in the area, the good news is that aphids have many natural enemies of the beneficial insect category. Among the list of natural enemies of aphids there are, of course, the Lady Bug beetles and the Green Lace Wings, which in all life stages consume vast quantities of aphids out in the real world, and there are also parasitic wasps and predatory midyes, often used in greenhouses, that can be obtained from places that sell these critters.

The female parasitic wasp, *Aphidius colomani* injects an egg into an aphid. This egg develops into a wasp larva which consumes the aphid from the inside, and then emerges as an adult to inject eggs into more aphids. This process leaves the empty aphid exoskeleton, or mummy, as a grim reminder that these wasps mean business.

The gall-midge, *Aphidoletes aphidimyza*, is a midge (a type of fly) that is one of several in this species that will eat over 60 species of aphids, and they are nocturnal. At night, the female midge lays her eggs near or under the colony of aphids. The eggs hatch into maggots and they begin to suck dry the aphids within reach. They will consume from 10 to 100 aphids per larva. The midge larva then pupate in the soil and emerge as adults to continue the cycle.

As with all of the beneficial insects, when pesticides are used, the chemicals kill beneficial insects more quickly than the pests, and because the aphids have developed resistance to most of these chemicals, these pest populations recover much faster than the beneficial insects. Using chemical pesticides really defeats your purpose.

Showcase

Burmese

Grown and Exhibited by:
Betty Lewandowski
Hybridizer: ***G. Boone***
Photo Credit: ***Daemon Baizan***

Ness' Starburst

1996 New Introduction
From Ness' 4th Best Commercial Display Table
Photo Credit: ***Daemon Baizan***

Aeschynanthus Speciosa

Shown by:
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Photo Credit: ***Daemon Baizan***

A Few Too Many?

by Marina Stukacz

Have you ever been asked by another member, how many violets you currently own? When first starting out in the violet world this was what I repeatedly inquired of long-time growers. Not only was it merely a matter of curiosity, but having realized that thousands were in existence out there, it gave some sort of idea of how many one could possibly and/or humanly grow. In other words, you knew where you stood, and where you were headed. Answers and responses were varied, some would tell you the approximate number (as none could say exactly how many), and others had no notion whatever, which could be taken to mean anything...

My violets were on the increase ever since the day a light stand was delivered to my doorstep. Before that, plants had to be content with any available space, be it on the windowsill, in hanging baskets from a planter pole, or even on the floor in front of the sliding door or the balcony.

At each and every meeting the hunt was on for those I did not yet possess. In such a way alone, it's more than possible to acquire a tremendous range. Two years on, it was my good fortune to obtain another stand. No time wasted, it was quickly assembled and out to good use, since by now the first one was overflowing with plants. What a pleasing sight. Finally the little darlings had enough breathing space plus plenty of room to expand. But both the violets' and my freedom was short lived.

In the meantime I had made the acquaintance of a newer member, and we soon recognized that our addiction was alike. Leaves were swapped, the consequence in my case meant another thirty different ones! This was the turning point, triggering off the collector's drive even more - to own as wide a variety as possible. It then became a bit of an obsession, like say, stamp collecting, where hobbyists go to any length to complete a certain set.

Many a time, when reading different magazines about African violet culture, I came across articles written by very wise people, who arrived at the conclusion that only a dramatic reduction in numbers would bring back their peace of mind and sanity. Well-meant as this advice was intended to be, it did not sink in, nor did I recognize the symptoms already present. However, the repetition of the warnings must have left its impression somewhere in my subconcious I guess, but the time was not yet ripe.

Together with my friend we acquired still more and more leaves. Smartly we would buy different ones so as to later exchange the offspring between us, this naturally leading to a population explosion. It is astonishing how one manages to find just a few more little spaces for those surplus babies without ever giving a thought that they too will eventually grow bigger. As every year freshly imported varieties are available, how can one possibly resist to put down a dozen or so leaves of those. Yes, and what about the beautiful Australian hybrids. Surely these cannot be overlooked either. Just think of the extensive range of Colonials and other stunning ones...

Due to all this plant raising activity another table with lights and a lower shelf found its way into our home. My friend labored hard to relieve my desperate no-room situation.

You may well wonder what became of all those leaves planted up earlier. Yes, they did bear fruit in due course, almost by the dozens. Lack of space prevented me from doing anything. At first they sat in a styrofoam box, Texas style, near a window. Despite the fact that the mother leaves died long ago, the youngsters seemed to compete happily with each other for root and air space. My weakness is that I cannot bring myself to throw anything out, especially a "living" thing. It has yet to be proven to me that the smallest plantlet, the last of the litter, so to speak, will not develop into a strong and handsome plant, provided that enough TLC and time is given. A few plants gradually were eliminated from the collection.

Finally occurred an incident that at least made me ponder over the quantity of my beloved plants. A very old lady (now deceased) had heard through a friend about the many violets I kept and expressed her wish to see them. Her transport was promptly arranged and she arrived in a wheelchair. I shall never forget the expression on her face as I placed the flowering violets one by one into her frail hands. She was almost crying for joy, never, ever having seen anything like it. Then she exclaimed "this is truly a small glimpse of paradise!"

I could not agree more. Here was someone sincerely appreciating the gorgeous flowers and sharing my feelings too. However, a sudden mood change followed immediately on picking up the next violet. Wait a minute. Oh no! It cannot be. This center looks strange! Mites - the hated, feared and hideously repulsive thought struck like lightning out of a blue sky.

Only with great difficulty could I hide how I felt while showing my guest several more. All plants were now viewed with the greatest suspicion. Soon a couple more were discovered that looked questionable. Impatiently, I awaited the night hours and with everyone in bed at last, I hurriedly carried them to the verandah, the bathtub and shower. In a jiffy I mixed a lethal potion for the bugs, transferred it to the watering can (who wants to spray anyway?) and mercilessly poured it over the unfortunate plants.

By the time the ordeal was past I was nonetheless a bit depressed, unable to understand how it could come to this as I regularly inspect my plants. At intervals more spraying followed - till finally they found their way back under the lights (minus a few that did not pass inspection). Fortunately the culprit was caught in its early stages, thanks to my dear lady visitor.

If the violets in the other room knew what happened to their cousins, they most likely would have trembled in fear of such harsh treatment.

Did this event bring me to my senses? Well at least it forced me to question myself as to what would be a reasonable quantity to grow. But then again, there is much to be taken into consideration. Not all my new varieties have flowered yet. Also, I've bonded with the ones in my possession from the beginning.

A line will have to be drawn sooner or later. After all, that does not mean the end of a particular violet, does it? If the nostalgic loss is too painful to bear one can always get another leaf, and so the vicious circle starts again...

Courtesy of The African Violet, Australia

$$ Awards Needed For St. Petersburg Convention

What a wonderful 50th anniversary convention in Atlanta. Thanks to everyone involved for a job well done. We now look forward to St. Petersburg, FL in June of 1977. Won't you please participate by donating an award? They are needed for all levels of the show - amateur and commercial horticulture, design and commercial displays. Would it entice you to make an extra effort to bring a plant or design to show if you knew there was an award to be had? Sure it would! It is nice to be recognized for our achievements especially at convention by our peers and affiliates.

All awards for the 1997 AVSA Convention in St. Petersburg should be sent to:

Linda L. Golubski
AVSA Awards Chairman
1416 A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 after 6:00 PM

In order for the awards to be listed in the January issue of the African Violet Magazine with all of the other details about the St. Petersburg Convention, the deadline for submitting awards is September 15, 1996. Awards will still be accepted until January 1, 1997. **Please make every effort to send your awards early.** Special requests are assigned based on the order of receipt.

Cash awards must be paid in U.S. funds, by check or money order, payable to AVSA Convention. Appropriate items other than cash (i.e. silver, rosettes) will be accepted. However, please do not send gift certificates. When sending an award, please include the following information:

Donor, or Name of Award
Address of Contact Person
Amount of award or other appropriate item
Request for specific class or section, if available (amateur horticulture, commercial horticulture, design, etc.)

Cash donations which cannot be awarded because there are no qualified entries (i.e. no entry for specific variety awards) are given to AVSA. Undesignated awards assigned to a class which subsequently has no blue ribbon entries are reassigned as needed. Awards for the best plant of a specific hybridizer or series, or awards which would complicate judging, will not be accepted. All awards must be sent to the Awards Chairman.

Get your check in the mail today and start making plans to join other AVSA members in St. Petersburg for the 1997 Convention and Show.

Create Your Own Beautiful Violets from Seed

by Pat Hancock
West Chester, OH

I resisted for a long time before trying to grow violets from seed. I had heard about the number of plants that could come from one seed pod, and I didn't know where I would put them once they started to grow. I knew that I would have a hard time discarding any of them before they matured and bloomed.

I attended several seminars on the principles of hybridizing and the techniques used to set seed, but I still had second thoughts about beginning such a project. I finally decided that I would just try pollinating a few blossoms to see if they would "take". At first, none did, and I was very disappointed and forever hooked.

I learned that there several factors that must be present for the production of a good, viable seed pod. First, the stigma must be at a certain stage to receive the pollen. At the proper time, the stigma will have a sticky or glossy appearance. Also, you mustn't be too rough applying the pollen or it may injure the end of the stigma. I believe this was the reason that none of my first crosses "took". If the cross takes, the flower will very soon start to wither and after a few days, the pod will begin to swell. It is a good idea to pollinate several blossoms on the same plant. This will usually insure that some will take and it also seems that African violet plants like growing several pods at the same time. The maturation time for the seed pods will usually be from three to six months. If the pod dries before three months, it will usually not be viable. Most feel that the plant should be kept on the dry side while setting seed, but I wick water, and I keep them on their wicks the entire time. Several things can cause the pods to decay or dry up too soon. Mildew is one of the worst, and should be avoided if at all possible. Spraying with fertilizers or chemicals may also cause premature death of the pod.

I use "Jiffy 7 Peat Cubes" for my planting medium. Three cubes, moistened, will fit nicely into a CLEAR hamburger container from your favorite fast food store. You must open the seed pod onto a white sheet of paper, as the seeds are very tiny, resembling black pepper. Try to spread them out on the moistened "Jiffy Cubes" so that they will be as far apart as possible when it is time to separate them. Close the top and place them about five or six inches from your fluorescent light fixture. If the seeds were viable, you should see tiny green plants in less than one month.

Buckeye Bouquet

When the seedlings have four leaves, they are ready to be moved to a less crowded location. It is acceptable at this stage to pot them up in clumps and separate them when they are larger. I prefer to pick each one out and pot it up individually in a small Solo cup. Sometimes, when young plants

are crowded at an early age, it takes them longer to show their potential for symmetry.

I like to know as soon as possible which of my seedlings have good symmetry. This enables me to discard early on any that do not "shape up". To this end, I feel it is very important to start right away to remove baby leaves and any leaves below the first large set of three. I read a hint from Hortense Pittman in the AVM some time back where she recommended planting the first generation of a seedling beside it in a pot. This has really worked well for me. I have used slightly smaller leaves that are just below the first three large ones, planting them beside the seedling in the same pot. The plant seems to provide a nice moist place for the leaves to root, and they really root in a hurry, putting up new plants in record time. This same idea can be applied to the second and third generations as well, saving much time in propagating the three generations required for registration. "Look alike" leaves from related seedlings cannot be confused, since the plants are growing beside the precious generation.

I have chosen "BUCKEYE" to precede the name and identify my crosses. I live in Ohio, the "Buckeye State", and I like the convenience of being able to identify the hybridizer of a plant without having to look it up.

My most successful cross thus far was using "Peach Sundae" as the seed parent and "Swift's Mermaid" as the pollen parent. "Peach Sundae" is a plant with beautiful variegated foliage, nice symmetry, and ruffled peach blossoms. The blossom count is very high with as many as twenty-plus per peduncle. Stems are very sturdy and hold the blossoms well above the foliage. This plant was hybridized by David Heath and it has many of the characteristics that I like in a violet. "Swift's Mermaid" is a very flat-growing plant with good symmetry and beautiful fantasy blossoms. Out of this one seed pod, I grew 137 plants. Amazingly, NO TWO APPEAR THE SAME.

It is very exciting when they begin to blossom. This is when you must decide if they are superior to plants already on the market. First blooms can be deceiving, and the true blossom type may not show up until the second or third bloom. There are many beautiful pink, purple, and white blooming plants on the market already, and unless the blossom has something really special and new about it, it is not distinctive enough to be named or registered. 'Plain' plants make lovely gifts to non-violet friends, but 'keepers' should be extra-special in some, or many, ways.

Keeping careful records is very important as you plan to register any plants. When I did this cross, I designated it as my 'B' cross. Thus, any seedlings that came from the resulting pod would be with a 'B' name if they were worthy. This makes it very easy to identify the parents of each pod. I use numbers with the pod letter until the plants get to the 'grow or discard' stage. An example would be 'B-25'.

From this pod of 137 seedlings, I have chosen ten that may be worth registering. Since the seed parent was variegated, all have beautiful variegated foliage. Many of them have a lot of pink and rose in the foliage, and it pleases me. I entered one that I have named "Buckeye Bouquet" in the AVS of Dayton, OH, show last spring, and won Best In Class. The plant was very young at the time, but I heard many comments on its beauty.

"Buckeye Bouquet" has long-lasting, camellia-type blossoms of lavender-pink. It has raspberry and purple fantasy fantasy spots and a variable raspberry edge. The foliage is mottled green, cream and some pink. It grows very fast and is large.

Here are descriptions of some of the others from that same seed pod:

"Buckeye Beguiling" - a semidouble large purple star with darker purple fantasy. The foliage is dark green, pink and cream. It grows large.

"Buckeye Beauty" is a single to semidouble pansy of pale raspberry with darker raspberry and purple fantasy markings and a ruffled edge. Some of the mixing of colors on this blossom reminds me of a watercolor. Variegated green, pink and cream foliage. Standard.

"Buckeye Blame Doris" is a semidouble fuchsia pansy with a thin white edge. Almost black-green, rose, and cream foliage. The blossoms and the rose in the foliage, compliment each other nicely. This one grows very large.

"Buckeye Butterflies" has ruffled and frilled blossoms of lavender with a darker purple edge, especially on the upper petals. The middle petal on the lower edge is somewhat longer, giving the suggestion of a butterfly. Almost black foliage with beautiful symmetry and pink and cream variegation. Standard.

As you can see, the variance among seedlings from the same pod is amazing. All of us take great pride in growing and showing beautiful African violets, but the pride in winning with your own creation is most rewarding.

Dazed by Design

by Carolee Carter
Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

I've been seriously growing African violets for show now for about five years and think I'm getting better at it every year, but catch me entering in the Design category? No way! My reaction has always surprised me because I have oftentimes been complimented about my "eye" for interior design as well as my penchant for arts and crafts. So why not just jump right into it, I asked myself.

I first became focused on the Design category when I visited our African Violet Council of Florida's show this past October. The designs were spectacular! Just two meetings prior to that, our club president had conducted a class in design to "inspire" more of us scaredy cats into giving it a try for our show, so at least my awareness level had been raised. I figured the reason I had never paid any more than a passing glance to our previous show's design category is that I was too busy trying to get my African violets ready for competition.

Well enough is enough, I muttered. When the time came for a count of who was going to enter the various design categories (there were six), I raised my hand *four* times!

Well, now that I had bit the bullet, I had to begin thinking about how to transform the categories I had selected into winning entries. The following several weeks were spent in a constant mind-numbing haze of indecision. I had the idea for the container garden, which was to represent an afternoon in Atlanta. The main ingredients consisted of a gazebo set alongside a stream. It took me four weekends of searching to find that gazebo, and I was never happy with it because I felt it out of proportion to the container, but I decided to use it anyway because I was so set on a gazebo and had depleted my source list! Finding mini-violets this time of the year was next to impossible. If I heard one more person tell me on the phone that "we had some great ones at Christmas," I'd go crazy. I finally found two scraggly ones that hopefully would make a comeback in a month. And, since we were planning to sell some at the show, I could always purchase one just beforehand .

The mini niche presented another problem. I had several pieces that might work as the container, one of which I really liked, but the hole in the center was so small I couldn't get the violet stem inside. I bravely went to the storage shed and selected a tool to open up the hole and almost broke the thing in half!

The large niches were worse. I couldn't find the right containers. I must have purchased and returned four in the first two weeks. I couldn't quite focus my brain on what I wanted to do and therefore I kept seeing items that might work in a design and bought them. When it came time for me to begin putting things together to see how they would work, I couldn't figure out how to get the floral foam stuck to the bottom of the container! Back to the floral supply store to get this gummy stuff, which barely held it down. I wound up putting weights on top of the foam to help.

Once the foam was in place, I then began to go wild. Did this look good here? Or here? Should this be at different levels or on the same level? Should I spray this gold, or leave it natural? What should I put in the bottom to cover all the gaping holes? On and on came the questions. I woke up in the middle of the night more than a half-dozen times. Why, oh, why did I get myself into this mess? I'll just withdraw, I said. Then another inspiration would come to me that I'd latch onto and off I'd go again.

It's the day before the show. Time to put the final touches on the container garden. I had planted all the main plants a month-and-a-half ago, and everything was looking pretty good, although it had been difficult to keep everything maintained and watered properly during that time. It was now time to make my stream. Into the kitchen I went with my blue-green candles and tossed them into an old pot. Would this work, I thought? It looked like the wax was melting clear instead of blue green! Off to the kitchen shelf for some food coloring. Yeah, that would work. Oops, no it won't; it just floats there on the top like an oil slick. Get the spoon and get it out quick! Wait, now the colored part of the wax is melting AND IT IS BLUE-GREEN! Yippee!

I gently poured the wax into my allotted stream bed that had been layered with pebbles, and it looked great. My bridge made out of stained ice cream bar sticks looked pretty good too. The gazebo, although still a bit large (funny how I kept thinking it would shrink), looked passable. The mini violets had freshened up over the month, and, coupled with one I bought from our sales table, looked just right. My added touches of a Southern hat, umbrella and tea set made the atmosphere complete. There. Finished!

It's Showtime and no more time to think. I began to wonder how on earth was I going to transport these big designs. A phone call to another member, and I realized that one brought all their design elements to the show and assembled them on the spot. Well that sounded plausible, but now I had to dissemble the entries again, and those holes in the foam were getting bigger and bigger. I calculated my chances of anything in the display remaining standing by the time the judges appeared. Not good, I thought.

At this year's show, I was responsible for entries and was busy all day and into the early evening on setup day. I kept looking out at the display tables to see when the Staging Committee would set up the niches so that I could sneak out and assemble my display and BE DONE WITH IT! Finally, at the end of the day when most had gone home, I helped some of the remaining members put the niches together and was about to start my assemblage when two members said "You're not going to put that together NOW are you? It probably won't be here tomorrow if you do." That did it. I'll never get this thing put together, I wailed to myself.

Another sleepless night. Up at 5:30 a.m., showered, dressed, breakfast on the run. Drove to the mall on an almost empty highway and met the security force opening the mall at 7:00 a.m.! I did have time to do the impossible, I thought.

Troubles from the start. I had decided overnight to line the niche with lavender paper. So here I was with my paper cutter trying to make a perfect fit. My nerves weren't made for this! Finally it worked. I carefully lifted out my blue violets and discovered they had become limp as rags. On the cellular phone to another member—"please, please bring me some blue violet blossoms when you come." "Okay," she said. When the blues arrived, they kept falling down in that gaping hole I had made. I tried sticking it with the gummy stuff I used on the foam, but that didn't work. I finally just lopped off two blooms and rested them on top.

Off to the next niche and I hurriedly assembled and reinforced my two remaining design entries. One last look. Did each have symmetry? Contrast? Proportion? Balance? Scale? Who knows? I thought they looked okay, but my brain was mush by this time. And, of course your own design entries never compare to everyone else's. I took one quick glance before the judging and said on several occasions "why didn't I think of that?"

Time's up. No more adjustments. Here come the judges!

Ironically, as a student judge, I was able to travel through the judging process in the design entries with master judge Bob Green. It was the best experience I could have ever hoped for. He critiqued each entry, asked us to critique them and then patiently explained to us the positives and sometimes the negatives of each.

The first three of my entries won blue ribbons, but when Bob reached my Interpretive Plant Arrangement, he paused and said nothing for a little bit too long. He finally said that, while interesting, he wasn't sure what the arrangement was trying to say. "It almost looked like the person ran out of time and ideas," he said. I stifled a giggle, knowing this was my entry. How perceptive he was, I thought, because that was exactly what had happened! After several more minutes, he found more positives than negatives with the design and awarded it a blue ribbon because he didn't want to discourage the designer. Whew!

Well, you didn't discourage me, Bob. I learned so much from this whole experience. The **first lesson**: don't enter more than one, possibly two categories the first time out. **Lesson two**: don't spend a lot of money buying items for your design. Look to nature. I am now beginning to see the whole world in a new light, and with everything I see, my brain subconsciously calculates whether or not the item would be worth adding to my "stash" of design possibilities. I now have a whole year to collect. **Lesson three**: Study the elements of design. Besides referring to past issues of African Violet magazine (see especially the November-December 1995 and January/February;1996 issues), check out books from the library and observe the techniques. **And last**, and above all, don't take it too seriously. Have fun, enjoy the competition and now that you know the routine, vow to do it again next year—only better!

TOM SEAVER

Gardener, Baseball Hall-of-Famer

Gardening is an important part of my life. I'm often out in my garden by seven.

I love the smell in the air, the early morning light.

My wife Nancy gave me a bronze plaque.

It says "He who plants a garden plants happiness." That's the way I feel.

I use Miracle-Gro to make everything in my garden look its best.

I learned that secret back when I was a rookie gardener.

Tom Seaver

"And the winners are..."

Al & Cathy Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Effective immediately, all "AND THE WINNERS ARE..." forms should be mailed to:

Ruth Goeke
4851 Pieper Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833

By the time you read this, due to our AVM deadlines, our last column for the September AVM will be finished.

AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Joelle, Optimara Alabama, Optimara Georgia; Best in Show: Maverick's Tight Jeans, **Gene Loveland.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Tomahawk, China Pink; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Lapis; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Blue Kazoo, Rob's Fiddlesticks, Winnergreen; Best Semiminiature: June Bug, **Pat Richards.** Best Design, **Lydia Walker.** Design Sweepstakes, **Patty Hart.**

AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Arapahoe, Ness' Bangle Blue, Ness' Midnight Fantasy; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Firefly, Ness' Red Flash, Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best in Show: Primrose; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ricki Oscarson.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mildred Patrick.**

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Desert Mirage, You Old Smoothie, Picasso; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Dots, **Margaret Condit.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cinnamon Candy, Windy Day, Pink Patti, **Malvene List.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Shy Blue, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Frosty Fun; Best Miniature: Ness'Angel Blush; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Juanita Carpenter.** Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana', **Mac McCawley.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jeanne Cotten.**

ALPHA AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Alpha Charlie, Mignon's Moment, Frosted Whisper, **Grace Davis.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Ness' Viking Maiden, Optimara Pennsylvania; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Ness' Red Express, Handmade; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Blanca Fuster.** Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Magic Blue; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Arturo Lopez.** Best Design, **Ron Davidson.** Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Davidson.**

ATCHAFALAYA VS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jeannette's Pure Sin, Fisherman's Paradise, Georgia Lover; Best in Show: Fisherman's Paradise; Best Trailer: Beacon Trail; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **George Ramirez.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Desert Dawn, Tomahawk, Candy Swirls; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Diamond, Rob's Bee Boopsie, Ness' Angel Blush; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Dyson.** Best Gesneriad: *Cobananthus* calochlamys, **L. T. Ozio.**

CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Powwow, Lela Marie; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Puddy Cat, Rob's Ice Maiden; Best in Show: Apache Freedom; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **David Tooker.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Sunspot, Precious Pink; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpella* 'Blueberry Cream', **Jan Murasko.** Best Design, **Dale Jasaitis.**

CORPUS CHRISTI AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiss Of Fire, Ness' Blue Velvet, Marie's Lady Lillian; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wooloomooloo, Rob's Boolaroo, Sunset Trail; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Karlyn'; Sweepstakes, **Marjorie Bullard.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Dean's Cupid; Best in Show: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Sante Fe Trail, **Jeanette Kocurek.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Marilyn McKeithan.** Best Design, **Sarah Stensland.**

FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Coral Kiss, Party Print, Mary Craig; Best in Show: Barbara Ann; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose, **Martha Turner.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosted Whisper, Alpha Charlie, Apache Jubilee, **Grace Davis.** Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Trailer: Sundown Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* pusilla; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Glendel Dixon.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*, **Margery Clive.** Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Paula Foster.**

FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Deano, Rob's Denim Demon, Teen Surprise; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Teen Surprise; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Happy Time'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eunice Curry.** Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Glennis Crouch.**

FIRST LAKELAND AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Sonja, Ness' Candy Pink, Georgia Lover; Best in Show: Ness' Candy Pink; Best Trailer: Frosty Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marvin Nester.** Best Semiminiature: Little Jezebel, **Barbara Courson.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lynne Locke.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia*

'Ice Cream', **Claudette Brown**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty McVicker**.

FORT WORTH AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Lela Marie, Optimara Aruba; Best in Show: Barbara Ann; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Trailing William; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Myrtle Chilcutt**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue Jay, Greg, Bertha; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Tropical Topaz', **Virginia Linson**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose, **Mrs. Rodney Fergon**. Best Design, **Mrs. Robert Early**. Design Sweepstakes, **Belinda Woodruff**.

GULF AV CLUB, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jean-Pierre Croteau, Cinnamon Candy, Hello Sunshine; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Peppermint Brocade'; Best Design, **Eleanor Duerr**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mixed Magic, Dusty Memory, Georgia Lover; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Irish Flirt, Litta; Best in Show: Groovy Sport; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lillian C. Scott**. Best Semiminiature: Audrey Buchanan, **Eleanor West**.

MID-POLK AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rita Hilton, Ness' Ballyhoo Blue, Ness' Candy Pink; Best in Show: Rita Hilton; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rita Hilton**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Lombardi**.

POMONA VALLEY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Happy Cricket, Vince's Choice, **Denise Fortain**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Wrangler's Spanish Cavalier, Lela Marie, **Louise Koop**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Tiptop, Optimara Little Blackfoot; Best in Show/BestTrailer: Oregon Trail; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, Best Semiminiature: Tiptop; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Jester'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Iris Keating**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Hilda Douglas**.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Dolly, Optimara Molokai, Peach Puff; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Irish Flirt. Rob's Silver Spook; Best Trailer: Tenny Bopper, **Betty Margetts**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Cutie; Best Semiminiature: Texas Teen; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Nelly Levine**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*, **Marcia Balonis**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Shimmer', **Catherine Balliu**. Best Design, **Millissa Culver**.

SAN JOAQUIN AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls. Irish Kiss, L'Ambassadeur; Best in Show: Wine Country; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Vera Parker**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ocean Eyes, Sparkle Plenty, Midnight Treasure; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Flim Flam, Little Pro, Mini Papa; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Doris Weaver**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Angie Ford**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Gal Vikki, **Evelyn Stein**. Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Joan Levyssohn**.

SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Rose, High Tide, Party Print; Best Trailer: Brazos Belle, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Mighty Mama, Sedona; Best Gesneriad: *Codonanthe* carnosa; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Irene Boro**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Be, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Design Sweepstakes, **Cathy Cornibe**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cathy's Fireworks, School Bells, Little James, **Al Cornibe**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Mary Malatesta**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Celine Chase**. Best Design, **Heather Morgan**.

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Mary Craig, Kathe Denise; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rob's Bo Peep, Shy Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue, **Mary Gregory**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Perhaps Love, Desir, Pink Rosette; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marilee Beam**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Parker, **Don Weaver**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Happy Snowflake', **Jacquie Eisenhut**. Best Design, **Hilda Carreiro**.

SPRING BRANCH AV CLUB, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Chris, Apache Victory, Rodeo Country; Best in Show: Rodeo Country; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Trailer: Little Chippery Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lenora Munk**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Victory, Apache Gem, Apache Sensation; Best Design, **J.C. Munk**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Judy Carter**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Early Bird', **Ellen Moskai**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**.

SWEETWATER AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Shades Of Autumn, Ness' Viking Maiden, **Eleanore Hill**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Shirley, Rob's Denim Demon, Rob's Bedazled; Best Semiminiature: Sassy Shirley; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Violets by Appointment**. Best in Show: Windy Day, **Edwina Gross**. Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Kathy Gavey**. Best Trailer: Falling Snow, **Ray Annabel**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Carefree's Regina', **Mildred Kiernan**. Best Design, **Doreen Monteleone-Nyman**. Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein**.

THE VIOLET PATCH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Brooke, Vintage Wine, Optimara Vienna; Best in Show: Vintage Wine; Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia*, **Bea Marx**. Best Trailer: Pony Ride, **Kay Lorenz**. Best Gesneriad: Columnea 'Julia'; Best Design, **Janice Stencel**. Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Leticia Potter**.

TOP CHOICE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosted Whisper, Vince's Choice, Apache Rainmaker; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Firefly, Rob's Dust Storm; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Flora Nugent**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Little Pro, Ness' Frosty Belle; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Frosty Belle; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Toy Silver', Vivian Kennedy. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Dorothy Ricketson**.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ward Brown, Natchurly Nawlins, Big Charlie; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ellen Griffin's Pride, Deep Dark Secret, Anastasia; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Teen Spirit, Handmade, Vagabond; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Chorus Girl', **Peggy Waller**. Design Sweepstakes, **Shirley Killpatrick**.

WINDSOR AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Candy Crystals, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best in Show: Bubblegum Halo; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, **Sylvia Taub**. Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Design, **Nancy Hayes**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis*, **Barbara Whitehill**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Roger', **Doreen Lay**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cindy Fagan**.

Some Thoughts on After-Show Plant Care

by Pat Richards

Most of our affiliates hold their shows in the spring, which means most of us take our plants out from their carefully nurtured existence in our homes and expose them to a whole host of horrors. Now, let's discuss the transition from show to home.

I think we would agree that not as much care needs to be taken in transporting plants back home. (In other words, we can drive on the right side of the road again!) Care should still be taken when packing in the showroom to prevent unnecessary harm to plants, i.e. to prevent leaves from being broken, plants sliding in boxes, etc. Probably the most important consideration we have while still in the showroom is when to take the blooms off. Many exhibitors, with good reason, do not pack a plant until it is stripped of all blooms and buds. Their rationale is to prevent any unnecessary pests from getting a free ride home with them. It's funny how much faster the car can be loaded, and how much smoother the road seems on the ride home!

Upon arriving home, as tempting as it is to go straight to bed, it is very important to unpack the car. Despite the packing and insulation, outside overnight in a garage in the middle of spring is not a good place for well-cared-for violets. Once unloaded, yet still boxed, some growers lightly spray their plants with a general pesticide (diazinon, Safer's®, malathion, etc.) as a precautionary measure.

After you've been allowed a few hours of rest or a good night's sleep, the actual unpacking process begins. Again, I understand that you are tired, but there is no better or more important time than now to clean reservoirs and matting. If you haven't done so, take the time to do it now. Perhaps the best reason for doing this is to change the water from a fertilizer solution to a plain, clear solution. After these plants have been pushed into bloom for so long and hauled off to a show (strenuous conditions at best), they really do need a brief period to recuperate.

Under ideal conditions, all plants returning returning from show should be isolated, however few of us have the space for this. Because of this, *now* is when the utmost precaution must be taken. No matter how inconvenient, do not unpack the boxes in your plant room. Have a trashcan next to you in an adjacent room. Remove *all* blooms and/or badly damaged leaves. Then, carry your plant into your growing area and place it on the clean matting or reservoir. Many of your plants will be very dry. Again, to help them recover, carefully pour through the soil with clear water to re-wet the soil and minimize damage to the roots. A fatal mistake at this time would be to begin fertilizing immediately, as burning of the fine roots would surely result! If you did not spray your plants with a pesticide before, consider doing so as soon as you can after settling your plants into their growing area. Resume your normal time schedule for lights. The shock of now dropping back to 10 to 12 hours is not as great as the "show" shock the plant has gone through.

During the next few weeks, each plant can be changed back to its usual fertilizer solution, and its destiny can be determined. For example, a plant with minimal damage can be pointed to the next show. Some will need to be repotted into either a same-size or larger pot. Great care must be exercised with those being potted down, giving all the more reason for a recuperation period *before* the procedure is done. A few plants will show much smaller leaves in the center of the plant because of the heavy bloom. Over the next few months, many of these will respond, and these smaller leaves will catch up so that a culture break will not be noticed. There are some—most noticeably variegated—that will be far less forgiving. In these cases, you may want to try to remove these smaller (and usually much more variegated) leaves as soon as you can. It is amazing how quickly the gaps will be filled in and very little growing time will be lost. Some plants will never recover from their show ordeal, and must be relegated to the great greenhouse in the sky or sold/given to a kind, forgiving soul.

Over the many years of showing and growing, I am continually amazed by the forgiving nature of violets. Treat them with a little TLC, and they will reward you year after year, show after show, with an abundance of bloom and beauty.

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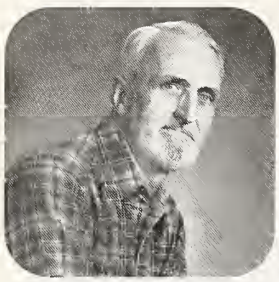

The Pleasure of a Smile

by Don Geiss
Frederic, MI

In this rural area, the great majority of violet lovers, and those who have that potential, are ladies.

As one of the very few men interested in these gorgeous offerings, it has been a great challenge to convince those men or women who are believers that they could have greater success by changing some raising techniques.

More often than not, these people have had plants that flower to some small extent. Perhaps they have small blooms or maybe only one or two flowers at a time. Many have pots that include two, three or four plants. Some have plants that have an exposed stem as long as four inches.

It has also been a challenge to cause one special group to have a minimum of success. These individuals have violets that look healthy but never flower. It includes people who have attempted to raise African violets and failed. And then those who have never attempted what they consider to be a horrendous task - the raising of African violets.

This is where the smile becomes an important objective. Any of the people in these categories are ready and willing to smile if only given the chance. That chance is to let them have a great deal of success in having a healthy, abundantly flowering African violet.

To accomplish this takes a plan that entails a combination of approaches. First of all, individuals must be taught, often in their homes, to treat a plant properly. In our case this has been done by offering, through classified ads, to repot plants at the home of the plant lover. More often than not we give the plant the full treatment, including washing off the roots and replacing the soil with our non-soil mix. We add a wick and a reservoir to the plant. Finally, we add a wicker basket to hide the pot and reservoir. While there is no smile at this point, at least there is an expression of "wait and see". It should be noted that we emphasized "often in their homes" because it is dangerous to accept plants in our home for fear that there might be a specimen that is infested with an insect or fungus.

Our second approach has been detailed in a previous edition of the "African Violet". That is, conduct workshops wherever we can find a group of ten or more.

During the workshop we can watch the heads nod whenever mention is made of a technique that any given individual finds she has not been using. Once again, there may not be a smile but at least there is an acknowledgement that it may create success. It might be the suggestion that artificial light can be as simple as a close-up incandescent lamp. An idea may be that a non-soil mix would help.

The reader may well say that all of this is time consuming and the average person cannot afford to spend the time repotting plants or conducting workshops. That is probably correct but we do insist that even a working person can squeeze in time to help a person or persons who could be fellow lovers of these plants.

If there is an individual reading this who has not had success, she might well want to search her area to find someone who wants to make her smile. Perhaps there is a local or state African violet society where members are willing to help. The "African Violet" and national society is certainly most helpful.

Frankly, we wish it were possible to reach out and lend a helping hand, but distance being what it is and costs being what they are, it can only be done in a limited area (150 miles has been our limit thus far.)

A lady by the name of Ruth Funck in Grayling (MI) was the person who brought out our smile. She took us under her wing and taught us all we know about getting those things to flower and look healthy.

Later, Loreen Callentine of West Branch (MI) helped to widen our smile and so we now spend as much time as possible repaying those people by making others smile.

That magic moment comes about in many ways. The telephone can ring and the female voice on the other end might start of by explaining that she attended a workshop or I repotted her plant. The next comment explains that she wants some sort of supplies or another plant. We are always certain that there is a smile on the other end of the phone when she states "My plant(s) are flowering all over the place."

A smile can be seen first hand when we are stopped on the street or in the store by a lady who tells of her latest success. She has a smile about a mile wide.

Now the reader will note that we emphasize ladies. As we mentioned earlier, there are few men in our area who are interested. On the other hand, even though we are 71 years old, a smile from a lady is certainly a thing of beauty.

Florida!

Everybody's Fantasy

by Barbara Matthews
Tampa, FL

Come with me for a peek backwards into the land we usually think of as sunshine, palm trees and orange juice. For a brief moment, let's drift back through time to watch as Ponce De Leon first steps ashore on the east coast of Florida in April, 1513. Envision the vast expanses of rare and beautiful flowers, ferns and trees that caused him to proclaim this land "Florida" - the Spanish "Feast Of Flowers". St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States, was established in 1565. Ponce De Leon, however, paused only briefly before continuing his search for gold and the fountain of youth, heading southward down Florida's east coast. From our vantage point of "history present", we can see that he was fortunate not to suffer nature's rage as did later explorers. Imagine the hurricane of 1715 shrieking as it hurled a fleet of Spanish Galleons against a reef where they sank, carrying an estimated $14 Million of treasure to the ocean floor along what is often referred to as "The Treasure Coast". Modern-day explorer and treasure-hunter, Mel Fisher, has spent 30 years recovering treasure. Some of the state's share of this salvaged treasure is on display at St. Lucie Museum and McLarty's State Museum on the east coast.

Suppose we could follow, as Ponce De Leon, believing this land to be an island, sailed around the tip of Florida and up the southwest coast. When he discovered the island now known as Sanibel, he named it "Coast of Seashells". Sanibel is still a favorite spot for beachcombing.

Our destination is further to the north: The Pinellas Peninsula. Watch as the first explorer to reach this peninsula arrives on April 15, 1528. Pamfilo De Navarez encounters some of the 100,000 native Americans who inhabit this land. Their large encampment stands under magnificent oak trees. It is believed that these trees still stand today in St. Petersburg, marking the site. Understandably, the Indians are not overjoyed to see these newcomers. Eventually the tribes will disappear, leaving only their shell mounds as silent sentinels of their passage. But wait, here comes yet another arrival. The date is May, 1539. Hernando De Soto, with his band of Conquistadors, has landed on a small spit of sand to the south of our earlier arrivals. They too have come in search of gold.

If we were to continue to gaze through the next 332 years of exploration and development, we would see Indian wars and missionaries; the first permanent settler, Frenchman Odet Phillipe, after whom a magnificent park is named; the beginnings of agriculture and the origination of the famous Indian River citrus groves. We would see Andrew Jackson named the first territorial governor in 1821, and finally, Florida named as the 27th state in 1845.

If our explorers could have gazed into the 1990s, they would probably have been astonished to see that their "island" is actually a huge peninsula with 1,300 miles of beaches along 2,800 miles of shoreline, 30,000 lakes and a land mass of over 34.5 million acres. They likely would have been saddened to see that 117 of the native animals are considered endangered, and that this is beautiful land of flowers, which has more native plant species than most of the other states, has 496 plant species that are endangered.

As we end our reveries of the past and turn our attention to dreams of St. Pete Beach in 1997, we invite you to treat yourself to the "Feast of Flowers" that still surrounds us, along with a kaleidoscope of forest lands and wildlife, waterways and beaches, and ever-present gulf breezes. "Exploring" can be as simple as a car ride to a historical site, such as the Desoto National Memorial, or as rugged as journeying through a wilderness park by boat or on foot. Bring your curiosity and your camera with you, because Florida has 3 national parks, 5 national monuments and memorials, 3 national forests and 2 national seashores. There are over 110 state parks (one of them is mostly underwater) and dozens of county parks. Notable among them is Phillippe Park in nearby Safety Harbor, or Myakka River State Park and Oscar Scherer State Park in the Sarasota area. The parks showcase many fascinating examples of natural Florida that have been set aside to preserve and protect the natural and cultural heritage of the state. Several of these are within easy access of the convention hotel. Many feature visitor centers, nature trails, boardwalks, and canoe rentals and are well marked with plaques identifying plants and animals that you might see. All will stimulate your imagination and delight your senses.

After the violets, the beauties of the "original Florida" are waiting to greet you. Now that you've met us, won't you (and your "fantasies") come and join us?

Attention Affiliates:

Nominations needed for Affiliate Leadership Award

The Mabel and Glen Hudson Memorial Award was established to honor individuals for outstanding leadership activities within an affiliated chapter. Nominees are recognized at the closing banquet of the annual convention. Recipients of the Hudson Award are presented a citation and a very nice award. All affiliate groups are encouraged to suggest names of potential candidates for this award. Secretaries of affiliates should send the name of the nominee, along with a detailed list of leadership activities and accomplishments, to Linda L. Golubski, AVSA Awards Committee Chairman, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Complete information should be submitted no later than November 1, 1996 to be considered for the award that will be presented at the 1997 Convention in St. Petersburg, FL. In order for the Awards Committee to give your recommendations full consideration, please share as much information as possible, focusing on contributions on the local affiliate level. AVSA has many outstanding affiliate clubs with leaders who deserve to be honored and recognized. Start gathering information to submit your nomination for this year's award.

Name That Plant!

by Barbara Goodsell
Glenview, IL

This was written to an African violet grower in Florida, but it may be of importance to many other growers all over the country.

You must have a tremendous growing area, because of the high quality of the plants that you ship out. I don't know if you deal with a plant broker, or if you sell directly to retailers, but your plants have arrived at several of the garden centers here in Illinois.

I recently purchased Fredette's Jingles, Lyon's Midnight Waves, and Granger Garden's Pink Amiss. They were all labeled at the garden center.

They also had some other lovely plants on display. the majority of them were large variegated plants with no names.

Being a true African violet grower, I didn't buy any, although I would have liked to purchase a few. But a plant without a name would not be accepted in a show.

On the other hand, the unsuspecting general public **WILL** purchase these plants because they have nothing like them at home. They are probably unaware that **plants should have a name** until they try to enter them in the non-member class at an affiliate show.

That's when the trouble begins.

Nine times out of ten we don't know the names of these plants. Once in a great while we get lucky with a name. We have visitors at our shows who question the members about plants being shown that have names. We explain that all entries must be named in an African violet show. The next day, this visitor comes back with many of her own plants and asks the club members to name them for her. Of course, this is almost impossible to do. She then purchases a large number of the club sale plants, all of which are named, which is good for the club.

So, whoever you are, I have a feeling that you may be an AVSA member. Won't you PLEASE take the time and effort to label all of your lovely plants?

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674

It would boggle your mind to know how many new friends I have made through this column. Everyone has been so nice in sending lists of the older violets. Some even send me plants!

Thank you to the following interested growers. I received a large list of Wrangler's from Laura in Coos Bay, OR, and quite a few of the Date's plants from from Marcia Belisle in Radisson, WI. Thanks also to Enid, of Menlo Park, for finding Shady Lady. Letters with the location of just one or two of these vintage treasures is greatly appreciated. Every little bit helps!

Some of the plants recently located are: Athena, Ballet Ulli, Country Lilacs, Elvis Presley, Kaneland Beauty (Dates), The Martian (Dates), and Outer Limits (Dates). Also, Rhapsodie Gigi, Reed's Pink Lemonade, The Parson's Little Pammy, Shady Lady, Tipt, and, of course, Yellow Brown Girl.

Now, if someone would just come up with a lot of the Baker oldies, we really would be in business. Anyone seen Holly Go Lightly lately? It's an older Baker plant.

Thanks to all of you for bring so generous with your time and plants.

AVSA MOST WANTED LIST

Arabesque
Autumn's Stormy Weather
Big Bird
Blueberry Muffin
Butterfly White
California Cascade
Circus Clown
Colibre
Copy Cat
Coral Tips
Cordelia
Crimsunny
Delphina
Diana Ross
Dib's Thrill
Double Mini Orchid
Dutchman
Easter Bunny
Elsie
Emma Lahr
Fairy Image
Fireworks
Gladys
Great Scott
Handkerchief
Hawley's Katy Did
Heavenly Halo
Illini Gem
Indian Summer
Jealous Pink
Jimmy Carter
Lady Luck
Lassy
LeBon Creole
Legacy
Little Katherine
Little Red Wagon
Lora Lou
Love Spots
Mandolin
Mary Lou
Moody Blues
Moon Moths
Mountain Blue Boy
Neon Rainbow
Pink Blueberry
Purple Crest
Rainbow's Bantam Neon Glo
Rennie
Rhapsodie Candy
Rhapsodie Elfriede
Rhapsodie Vanessa
Risque
Rosalyn Carter
Rose Triumph
Sailor's Dream
Suncoast Pink Giant
Sun Valley
Tassy
The Parson's Ruffles
The Parson's Wife
Tidecrest
Velvet Dawn
Victoria
Violet Trail
Viva
White Pride Supreme
Wrangler's Gaudy Lady

The History of Two Possibly New Species

by Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306

My first contact with the plants known as Saintpaulia Robertson and Saintpaulia white ionantha was while attending the 1992 AVSA Convention at Columbus, Ohio. The rumors were that Joan Halford of South Africa had brought plant material from two "new" African violet species plants to the convention. During the slide presentation of new releases by hybridizers, pictures were shown of the plant known as S. Robertson and another new plant called S. white ionantha. (Note - neither plant has yet been described as a new botanical species so the use of their latin style genus and species names is not accurate and will not be underlined in this article). Many at the convention were excited; these were the first new species of African violets in many years. There were many questions concerning the plants. What did they really look like? When would they become available? What type of growing conditions did they require? Would they have new traits that the hybridizers could use in plant breeding? And perhaps one of the most interesting questions, where did these plants come from?

Mrs. Halford gave the plants to Genola Cox of the Violet Express who was successful in propagating the material. Both species have been listed in Genola's catalog since that time. Although neither species has yet been added to the African Violet Society of America's Master Variety List, they have appeared in many shows since their introduction.

S. Robertson is a large growing plant. The flowers are medium blue and are large compared to many of the other species. The flowers are slightly cupped and are found 4-6 per flower stalk. The leaves of this plant are very thick and are longer than wide. The leaves are medium green and have a pale green reverse. The leaves are somewhat similar to the species *S. tongwensis*, but are larger in size. In mature plants, the petioles of the leaves are usually arched, bending the leaf blades downward. This gives the plant an interesting "fountain" growth form, which is not seen in most of the other species except *S. orbicularis*. This plant grows as a single rosette and is not prone to suckering.

S. white ionantha is a much smaller plant than S. Robertson and does appear to be a white form of the species *S. ionantha*. The flowers are white or nearly white and are found 4-8 per flower stalk. The leaves are medium green and have a pale green reverse. This plant can be grown as a single rosette, but it does tend to sucker easily and produce multiple crowns.

I have found both plants to be relatively easy to grow and are similar in their requirements to other African violet species. They will grow easily under lights and do not appear to require cold treatments to promote flowering. I have observed that both plants appear to grow better under warm conditions rather than cool. Neither seems especially susceptible to over-watering, but as with most of the species, care should be given to provide adequate drainage to prevent rot. S. white ionantha is slightly more temperamental to grow than is *S. ionantha* (due to suckering), but both new plants make fine additions to an African violet species collection.

Over the last year, I have been trying to play detective and trace the origin of these new plants. I was especially interested in S. Robertson because I felt that of the two, this plant might be a legitimate new botanical species. Knowing where it was originally collected could be important in determining if either of these plants were new species. My detective work has taken a number interesting twists and turns. I am relating the story here so that the reader can appreciate how convoluted the tracing of a plant's origins can sometimes be.

My starting place was with Mrs. Halford. I knew she had brought the original material to the United States. Correspondence with Mrs. Halford indicated that she had received the plants from Sylva Mather of Nairobi, Kenya. Mrs. Mather was an African violet hobbyist and had gathered or field collected a number of the species plants. Readers of the African Violet Magazine may recognize Mrs. Mather through articles about the species that she wrote several years ago. The only information that Mrs. Mather had included with the plant material sent to Mrs. Halford was that S. Robertson had been collected in the Kilifi area and that S. white ionantha was a white form of *S. ionantha*. Mrs. Halford had actually received the material several years before 1992, but had not realized that the African Violet Society of America was not aware of the plants. This discovery was what prompted Mrs. Halford to bring the material to the Columbus Convention. My correspondence with Mrs. Halford also indicated that Mrs. Mather had been recently killed in an accident and that the status of her plants and records was unknown. However, Mrs. Halford thought that plant material from Mrs. Mather's collection had been sent to Kew Botanical Gardens, England and that perhaps further information could be learned through them.

I have access to electronic mail through the internet and tried to contact Kew through this medium. Over the course

of several weeks, I eventually received replies (via regular mail) to my inquiries. From Kew, I learned that a study of the African violet species was in progress and that some information would not be available until after the study was completed. Kew did have plants called the "Mather Collection", which additional correspondence confirmed to be the plants from Sylva Mather. Kew suggested that the plant called S. Robertson was likely the same as plant No. 18 in the Mather collection. Kew thought that this plant had been named after Mrs. A. Robertson who had worked with the Mather Collection. S. white ionantha was probably the same as the Mather Collection's plants No. 20 or plant N. Further information, especially the locations where these plants were collected were not given. However, an address was provided for Mrs. Robertson, who lived in Kenya. I wrote to Mrs. Robertson hoping to learn more information, but because of a chain of events which will be related later, I did not get a reply for several months.

The hint from Mrs. Halford that S. Robertson had been collected in the Kilifi area sent me to the university library in search of an atlas. A check of maps for Tanzania, the home of most of the African violet species, failed to find any listing of a location called "Kilifi". Checking the maps from Kenya, which is home to only two species of African violets (*S. rupicola* and *S. teitensis*), an area on the southeastern coast of Kenya was found with the name "Kilifi". If S. Robertson had been collected somewhere in this area, it would be only the third African violet species collected from Kenya! This would possibly be a new location for an African violet species and would be strong evidence that S. Robertson was perhaps a new botanical species.

During this same time period, I also became aware of a collection of African violet species plants that had been gathered at Iowa State University by Dr. Jonathan Wendel. These plants had been originally collected for use in a DNA study of the species by a student of Dr. Wendel's, but the project had been postponed. Dr. Wendel was gracious enough to share a listing of the plants in this collection, and later, a number of leaf samples.

To my surprise and delight, the records from Dr. Wendel indicated that a number of plants in his collection were part of the Mather Collection and had been sent to him by Mrs. Robertson. A number of notes which had been included with the plant material gave some answers regarding the collection history of these plants.

After Mrs. Mather's death in 1992, Mrs. Robertson had made an attempt to catalog the collection and place plant material into her collection in Malindi, Kenya as well as sending material on to Kew. Mrs. Robertson's notes indicate that the location of S. Robertson, given to her by Mrs. Mather, was based on information obtained from Mrs. Woodhead, the sister of another African violet collector, Mr. D. Campbell. Mrs. Robertson and her colleague Quentin Luke collected the plant material of S. Robertson on February 21, 1988. The collection site was the Kacharoroni Gorge on the Rare (Vitengeni) River in the Kilifi area of Kenya. The habitat was described as crevices in limestone cliff in dappled shade of semi-deciduous forest. The altitude was 200 meters (540 feet) making the habitat part of the coastal area of Kenya. The plants were given a collection number (R&L 5126) and material was later sent to Kew. Samples of the plant material were given to Mrs. Mather, who labeled them as No. 18 and plant P. It appears that cuttings of these plants were what was sent to Mrs. Halford in South Africa, who then brought them to the United States.

The source of the S. white ionantha is recorded in Mrs. Robertson's notes on the Mather Collection, but the true location is likely to remain unknown. Mrs. Mather recorded on the plant: "I cannot vouch for its background. It was given to me years ago by a friend from Dar-es-Salamm, Tanzania, who told me that it was found by a Dutch missionary father, and was growing at the top of 'one of the mountain ranges there'". About the only thing that can be said for certain based on this information is that the location is consistent with the area reported for S. ionantha. Therefore, it does appear likely that S. white ionantha is a form of the species S. ionantha and is not a new botanical species.

Just recently, I received a reply to my letter to Mrs. Robertson. It appears that the address I was given was incorrect. Another person in Kenya named Robertson had received my letter. This individual was a friend of Mrs. Robertson and forwarded the letter to her. However, Mrs. Robertson had returned to England for a visit and was currently doing some work at Kew. Mrs. Robertson's letter confirmed the location for the collection of the plant S. Robertson. She also indicated that B.L. Burtt, who has done so much taxonomic work on the genus *Saintpaulia*, had examined the S. Robertson material and was of the opinion that it was a form of the species *S. rupicola*. While *S. rupicola* is found in the same general area of Kenya, there are a number of differences between the two plants. Perhaps when further study has been conducted, S. Robertson will be described as a separate botanical species from *S. rupicola*. Dr. Burtt has also identified the S. white ionantha as being the same as the species *S. ionantha*.

In conclusion, little did I think when I began this investigation that I would go from the United States to South Africa to England to Kenya and back. This has been a nice example of what plant taxonomists sometimes go through in tracing the origins of new plants. There are other plants in the Mather Collection and in Dr. Wendel's collection that don't appear to fit the description of any of the current species of African violets. The process of tracing a plant's origins is one that may have to be repeated if these plants are to be described and named. While I hope that plant taxonomists will eventually describe S. Robertson as a new species, even if this should not occur, at least we now know where S. Robertson and S. white ionantha originated.

Coming Events

August 22 & 23 - MINNESOTA
Minnesota AVS Annual State Fair Show
Greater Minnesota State Fair Grounds, Snelling Ave.,
St. Paul, MN
Info: Conrad Nelson (612) 729 - 1543

July 19 - NEW YORK
New York Botanical Garden
"A Day in the Garden with Dr. Allen Armitage"
Info: (718) 817 - 8747

September 7 - CALIFORNIA
Ventura County AVS African Violet Sale
Buenaventure Mall, Main St. and Mills Rd.,
Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 6pm

September 27 - 29 - WISCONSIN
WI Council of AV Clubs Annual Judged Plant Show/Sale
East Town Mall, Madison, WI
Sept 27 & 28 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 29 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552

October 25 & 26 - CANADA
Stampede City AVS Sponsored AVSA Judging School
and Workshop, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Teacher: Barbara Elkin of California
Info: Margaret Jarratt (403) 238 - 2863

October 31 - November 2 - SOUTH AFRICA
Transvaal AVS Show/Sale
Christ Church Halls, 820 Pretorius St.
Pretoria, Rep. of South Africa
Oct 31 - 2pm - 8pm
Nov 1 - 9am - 8pm
Nov 2 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Joan Halford S.A. (012) 562 - 0728

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African Violet Council of Florida

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Abigail Adams #3226 (Fredette)
Beginner's Luck #2803 (Pritchet)
Cat's Meow #3238 (Swift)
Celine #3188 (Maas)
Dardevil (Burton)
Dyn-O-Mite #3440 (Lyon)
Gr. Cameo Queen #3863 (Granger)
Gr. White Cockatoo #3417 (Granger)
Pixie Pink #2599 (Lyon)
Red Wow (Lyon)
Sunlit Sugar Plum #4599 (Scott)

1984

Betcha #3144 (Swift)
China Pink #3429 (Fredette)
Chris (Maas)
Optimara Colorado #3152 (Holtkamp)
Coral Radiance #3672 (Lyon)
Dear Ellie #3439 (Lyon)
Gr. Wonderland #3419 (Granger)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Sammye Ballard #3563 (Granger)
Sanibel #3377 (Leary)
Silver Lining #3629 (Fredette)
Snowy Trail #3678 (Lyon)
Sparkle Plenty #2786 (Egenites)
Tiger #3433 (Fredette)
Wanderlust #3786 (Granger)
Verna Lynn (Fredette)

1985

Autumn Honey #4462 (Groeneman)
Black Ace #3541 (Nadeau)
Cherry Frosting #4333 (Fredette)
Disco Dazzler #3909 (Lyon)
Gr. Carnival #4298 (Gr. Gardens)
Gr. Heart's Desire #3407 (Gr. Gardens)
Irish Angel #4054 (Annalee)
Kristi Marie #3914 (Lyon)
Polly Doodle #4339 (Fredette)
Rhap. Barbara #6979 (Holtkamp)
Something Special #3668 (Nadeau)
Splish Splash n/r (Lyon)
Spring Fling #3553 (Nadeau)
Sundown #3598 (Utz)
Swamp Fever #4046 (Sisk)

1986

Chris Leppard #4636 (Maas)
Dominique #4345 (Fredette)
Fisher's Leone #4540 (E. Fisher)
Lady Baltimore #4337 (Fredette)
Love Bug #4513 (Lyon)
Marie Knoblock #4042 (Sisk)
Optimara Nevada #6964 (Holtkamp)
Optimara New Mexico #6583 (Holtkamp)
Snuggles #5018 (Lyon)
Spanish Moss #4045 (Sisk)

1987

Fisherman's Paradise #4843 (Sisk)
Gr. Desert Dawn #4050 (Eyerdom)
Optimara Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Happy Cricket #5726 (Hollada)
Interlude #4935 (Gr. Gardens)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Winnergreen #4693 (Pittman)

1988

Camelot Pink #4293 (H. Eyerdom)
Cactus Rose #4147 (Fredette)
Crystallaire #4295 (H. Eyerdom)
Glittersweet #4431 (Fredette)
Gr. Valencia #4051 (Granger)
Kingwood Red #4308 (H. Eyerdom)
Summer Lightning #5023 (Lyon)
Trail Along N/R (Lyon)
Vibrant Val #3918 (Lyon)

1989

Anna Kreeck #5784 (Trent)
Big Bird #5155 (Fredette)
Christmas Candy-O #5032 (Groeneman)
Columbia #5450 (Eyerdom)
Dumplin #3931 (Swift)
Fairy Queen N/R (Fisher)
Kiwi Dazzle #5888 (Snell)
Mauna Loa #5336 (Eyerdom)
Optimara Alabama #6542 (Holtkamp)
Splendiferous #5813 (Whitaker)
Wrangler's Dixie Celebration #4490 (Smith)

1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)
Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)
Melodie Kimi n/r (Sunnyside)
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)
Nortex's Snowfrill Haven #6045 (Johnson)
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046 (Johnson)
Optimara™ Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

1994

Optimara Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor Roll of African Violets

To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared on the Best Varieties list for five consecutive years.

Worth Repeating:

The Ten Proper Environmental Factors

by Edward Bradford
Woodhaven, NY

...I will attempt to provide basic information needed to grow beautiful blooming plants. From time to time I will stress growing plants for show because I believe showing plants motivates one to provide the best possible care which in turn results in the best possible plants.

Also realizing that anyone reading this column already owns plants and need immediate general information on their care, I have chosen to provide an overview on the ten proper environmental factors necessary for healthy, productive plants. Grouped in the order of what I consider to be their importance, the ten factors are: lighting; potting and soil; watering and feeding; cleaning, humidity, space, and temperature.

NATURAL LIGHT: African violets need adequate light if they are to grow in an attractive, flat rosette and produce abundant blooms. Adequate light for violets is greater than for non-flowering plants such as ferns which can flourish in deep shade and far less than for garden plants such as roses which require at least six hours of direct sun daily in order to bloom.

Violets do not require direct sun but do need bright light. To say that an east exposure is best for growing plants in natural light ignores too many possible variables. The light coming in an eastern exposure may be diminished by large shade trees, overhanging eaves, or a high rise building. On the other hand, the light received through a normally less desirable exposure may be enhanced by reflection from a nearby surface. My neighbor does very well with his plants in a north window because of the light reflected from the white house next door which is about 20 feet away. Keep in mind that the amount of light received through any exposure will change with the seasons. An exposure that is too bright during the spring and summer may be just right for the fall and winter. Also, the amount of light the violets receive is greatly reduced by moving the plants only size to 12 inches away from the window.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT: The use of fluorescent light helps the grower to overcome the vagaries of natural light. Because African violets are intermediate day-length plants, they can grow in a setting which receives the same amount of light every day of the year. Unlike begonias, they do not require a period of short days and long nights in order to set their flower buds.

A light period of 12-14 hours per day is usually about right. To simplify control of the light and dark periods, the fixtures should be operated by a timer. Plants should never have 24 hours of light because darkness is needed for the plants to use the food manufactured during the light period.

Standards can be placed so that there are 6 to 8 inches between the tube and the surface of the plant. Miniatures and immature plantlets can be as close as 3 to 4 inches. The light is more intense at the center of the tube so that darker foliage and variegated varieties usually prefer that location.

Almost any combination of cool white, warm white or GroLux tubes can be used with satisfactory results. It is not necessary to invest in the expensive "Power Twist" tubes.

POTS: African violets are very shallow rooted. Thus,

tub or pan pots are the better choice. A tub pot has a depth equal to about three-fourths the pot's diameter: a pan pot has a depth equal to about one-half the diameter. Choose a pot that is about one-third the diameter of the plant. Not only does the plant look better in a pot of the right proportion, choosing a pot of the proper size helps prevent over watering which can lead to rot and death of the plant. If there is too much soil, it holds excess water which the root system cannot use.

Plastic pots are preferable to clay or ceramic pots because they are inexpensive, light weight and easily cleaned. Clay pots tend to collect salts which are damaging to the leaf petioles (stems) on the rims.

Given proper care and conditions, violets can be rapid growers. As the plant needs it, repot into the next size pot. But do not increase the pot size more than one inch in diameter. It is preferable to repot more frequently than to invite trouble by moving the plant from a small pot to one that is too large.

SOIL: African Violet roots are very fine and hairline, Therefore, the potting mixture should be light and airy in order for the roots to easily penetrate the soil mass. There are numerous formulas for potting mixes, almost as many as there are growers of violets. Most products sold as African Violet soil are too heavy to be used right out of the bag. However, these commercial products can be greatly improved through additives. Using a coffee can as a measure, add one can of coarse vermiculite and one can of perlite to each can of commercial AV soil. If there is a tendency toward overwatering, an additional one-half can of perlite may be necessary.

WATERING: African Violets prefer to be kept evenly moist, neither desert nor swamp. It is impossible to water on a schedule unless wick watering or "Texas style" is being used. How does one learn how often and how much to water? Only through observation and experience.

Small pots will require watering more frequently than large ones. Very hot or cold weather will necessitate less frequent watering because the plants are not growing as actively and consequently using less water. During hot dry weather or during the winter months when home heating is in use, the plants will require more frequent watering.

Observe. Dry soil will appear lighter in color. Also the need to water can be determined by the heft of the pot when lifted. A plant that needs watering will be much lighter in weight than one that does not.

It makes no difference whether a plant is watered from the top or bottom. However, avoid getting water on the foliage of plants grown in natural light. The water does not cause damage unless it is very hot or cold. The water drops do act as a miniature lenses which focus the light rays (much as does a magnifying glass) which burn the leaves. Whether top or bottom watering, do not let the pots stand in water for long periods of time.

FEEDING: Adequate feeding is necessary if violets are to have rich, healthy foliage and abundant bloom. Constant feed in which a very dilute fertilizer solution is given at every watering is preferable to hit or miss large doses. Dry, water soluble fertilizers are cheaper to use than liquids. Why pay for water that can be added at home? Any fertilizer whose nitrogen-phosphorus-potash numbers add up to 60 is the best buy. Use 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of room-temperature water and feed each time the plants are watered. Do not feed plants which have been allowed to become extremely dry. Use plain water and feed the next time.

CLEANING: Cleanliness is above godliness when growing plants. Dirty plants and growing areas promote disease. Keep plants and shelves free of spent blooms, dead leaves, etc. Dust on plants rob them of adequate light. Periodic brushing with a *soft* brush will help.

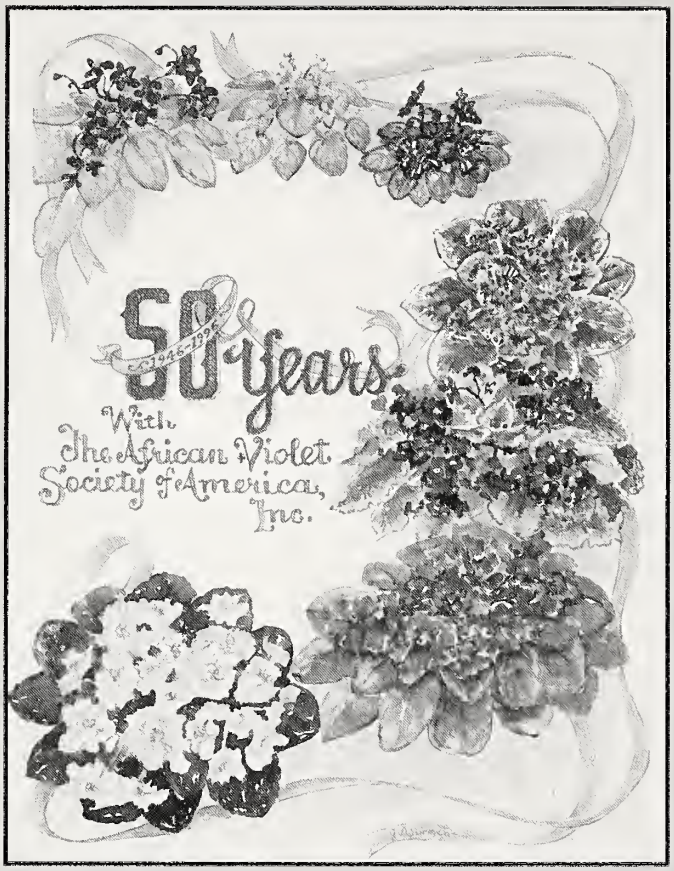
HUMIDITY: Violets prefer a humidity range of 40 to 60 percent. Very low humidity reduces the amount and size of the flowers produced. I do not recommend misting as a means of increasing the humidity because the moisture evaporates too quickly, often in only 15 minutes. It is better to have some material such as gravel or matting which is kept damp and on which the plants are placed. The plants should be above the water level so that the soil does not become water logged.

SPACE: If violets are to assume the desired flat rosette, they must have sufficient space in which to do so. Crowded plants tend to have foliage which grows upright; it has no place else to go. If fact, plants which are just barely touching may have leaves which twist or turn because of the pressure from their neighbors.

TEMPERATURE: The ideal temperature for violets is 75°F during the day and 65°F during the night. They will not grow during extended periods of extremely high or low temperatures. In areas with temperature extremes, additional heat or cooling may be required. When growing in natural light, care must be taken that plants are not chilled at night. The temperature near a drafty window may be 10 to 15 degrees colder than that in the center of the room.

Reprinted from the September/October 1989 African Violet Magazine

AVSA 50th Anniversary Book



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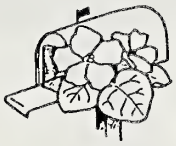

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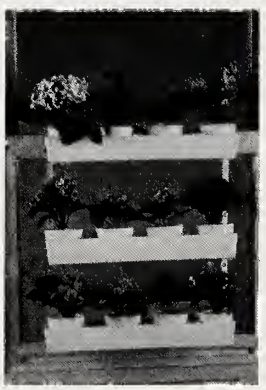

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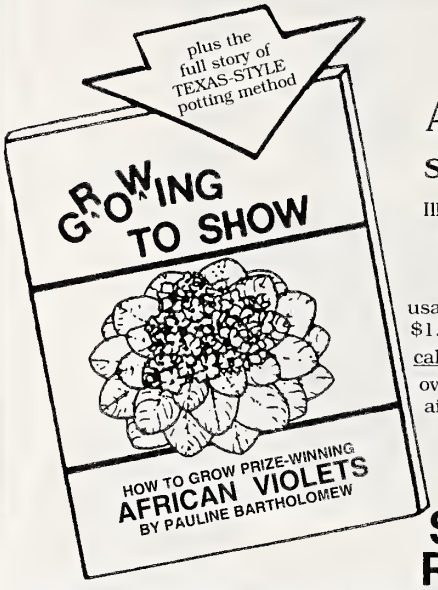

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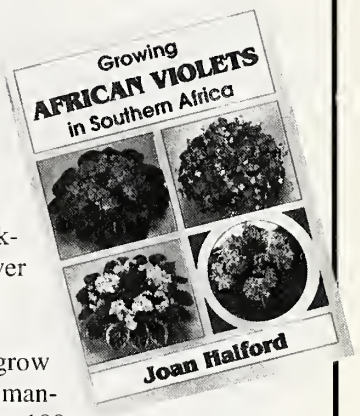

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2-1/2	Wh/Gr/Bk	RS/SQ	2.25	3.75	8.25	14.25	58.50
3	Wh/Gr/Bk	RT/RS/SQ	2.70	4.95	11.25	20.25	86.25
3-1/2	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	3.15	5.60	12.75	23.25	101.25
4	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	3.75	6.75	15.00	27.00	117.00
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5	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	4.85	8.70	20.25	37.50	165.00
5 1/2	Wh	SQ	5.00	9.00	20.25		
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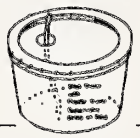

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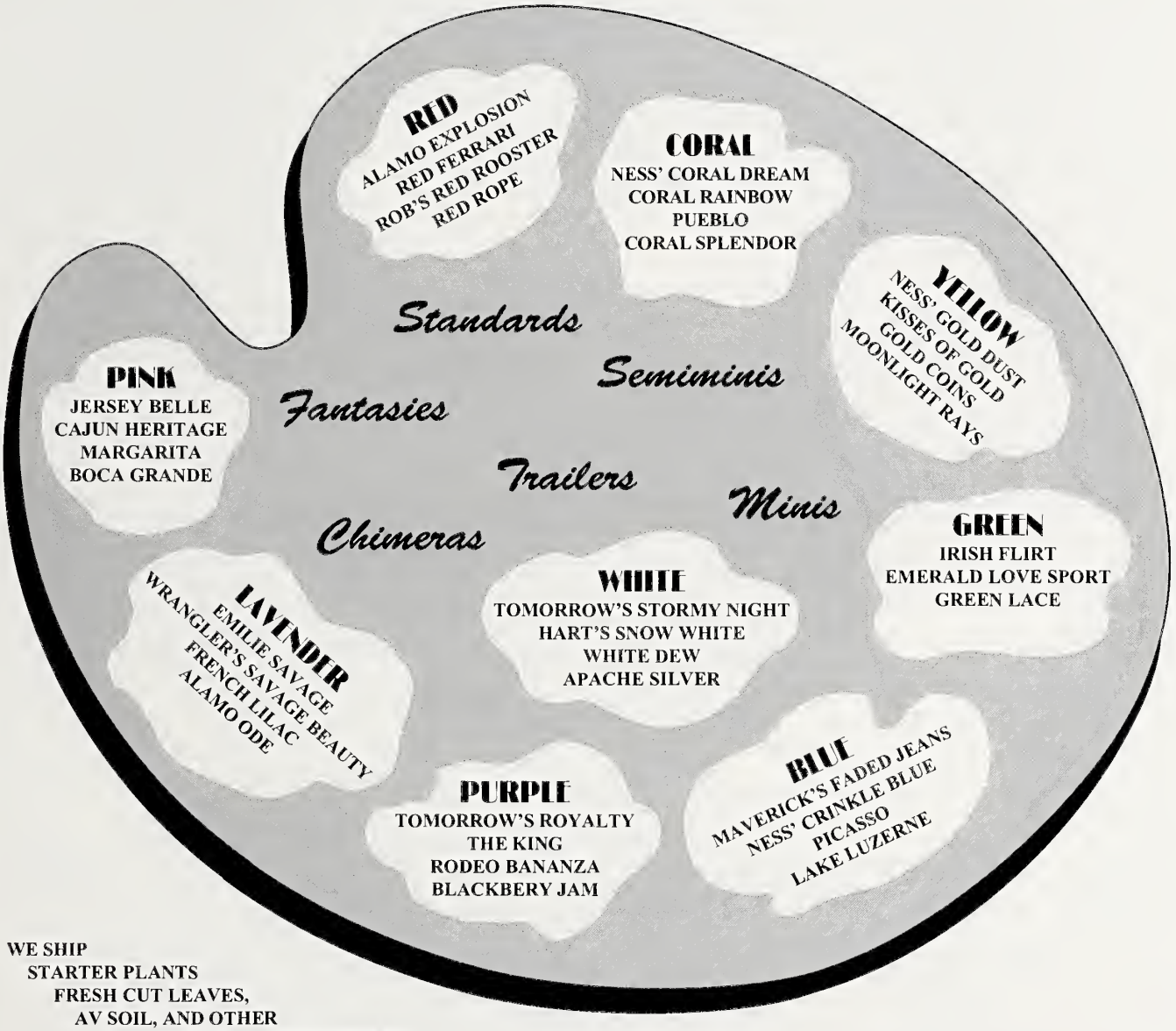

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African Violet

The magazine dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

September • October 1996 Volume 49 Number 5

AVSA Business

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MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955, 407-631-1106.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

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BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, 99 Hancock #254, Tiverton, RI 02878.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue -Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb.1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; 410-686-4667.

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MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603

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PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Richard Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - $7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

September • October | Volume 49 | Number 5

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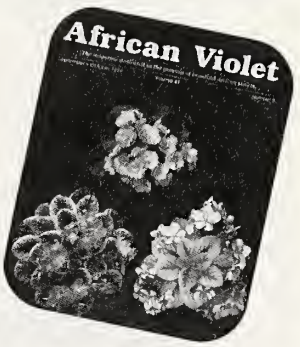

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

Dear AVSA Members and Friends,

Although there may be signs of changing weather in some parts of the northern states, we are still experiencing some really hot days in the lower south. As far as I am concerned, hot days are not conducive to repotting on a large scale. So I continue to water and groom and wait for a cooler temperature in which to do any mass repotting.

Perhaps one of the most attractive and interesting publications offered by AVSA is the AVSA 50th Anniversary Book. If you are looking for a suitable souvenir of AVSA's first fifty years of existence, then this is the publication to have. The front cover is a lovely water color painting by Georgene Albrecht, showing colorful African violet plants discovered and grown by African violet lovers. Our beloved African violets are represented by seven true-to-life plants from the first species discovered, through fifty years to the present day yellow violets. The contents include over 100 color photographs of prize-winning African violets. You will find a detailed history of AVSA's first 50 years in this beautiful publication. Once you see this book, you will understand why we feel it's a collector's item. The cost is only $19.50 postpaid.

I want to share with you a pleasant experience I had recently. A very dear friend of mine who is greatly aware of my love for African violets took a trip to England to attend the huge flower show that is held each spring. She returned home with nothing but praise for the magnitude of the entire show and especially for the display of African violets for everyone to enjoy. Naturally, she brought back the brochures and the order blanks from one of the larger exhibitors in the African violet division. The challenge to grow a couple of African violets from Europe became apparent and real almost immediately. Choosing what I thought to be a representative group of colors and types was not difficult and within a short time I had an order in the mail.

Just about ten days later I received a letter from the company to whom I had sent the order advising me that they would not be able to ship live plant material because of regulations that make it impractical for them to export to the U.S.A. However, they did send a copy of their culture folder which proved to be quite interesting. Never underestimate African violet growers!!

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702 • (409) 839-4725

Cathy and Al Cornibe's last "And the Winners Are..." column is in this issue. Thanks so much, Cathy and Al, for a job well done!

In the November/December AVM look for **Ruth Goeke's** debut as our "And the Winners Are..." columnist. Ruth is a member of both the Publications and Commercial Sales and Exhibits Committees, and is Editor of the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter

Please type or clearly print your show results on the forms to ensure that your winner's names are correctly spelled. These should be mailed to:

Ruth Goeke
4851 Pieper Rd
Brenham, TX 77833

Thank you for all the positive comments about the 50th Anniversary Book. I truly enjoyed compiling this commemorative publication. (What better excuse to read fifty years of back issues of the AVM?)

The 50th Anniversary Book may be ordered through our office. This is a limited edition reflecting AVSA's history, and will not be reprinted. We also offer the 50th Anniversary Pin, and a photo of both of these is on page 46.

My apologies to **Travis Davis** of Travis' Violets, Ochlockee, GA. When I featured Travis' hybrid, **Peach Puff**, on the cover of May/June '95 AVM, I neglected to mention Travis as the hybridizer. Peach Puff was part of the 2nd Best AVSA Amateur Collection at the 1994 AVSA National Show and was grown by **Betty Margetts.**

PEACH PUFF

On pages 28 and 29 be sure to read 'American Violets Through African Eyes", by our friends **Deon du Toit** and **Andre Möhlen** of South Africa. I think you'll be amazed at the differences in the AV markets in the US and Europe. I sincerely hope more members from other countries will share their experiences as growers, commercial and private, with us.

Read **Ellen Beckerman's** article, "Snapshots From Our 1st Convention" on pages 18 and 19. Ellen was a big help at the convention, and her enthusiasm is refreshing!

Jackie Jones, our Library Committee Chair is making a point of introducing more videos into our library collection. Also, the slide programs from our 1996 National Show in Atlanta are now available through the AVSA office. Be sure to call our secretary, **Jenny Daugereau,** and reserve one of these programs for your club meetings. Those of you who were unable to attend the Atlanta convention will enjoy seeing the beautiful slides produced by our Library Committee.

On page 47 of this issue there is a memorial tribute to **Lizeta Hamilton**, longtime AVSA member, member of our Hall of Fame, and the person responsible for the inspiration to purchase a permanent home for the African Violet Society of America. As I read the back issues of the AVM, I learned a lot about Lizeta Hamilton and her contributions to this society, which were boundless.

Many of you have dropped by the AVSA office building when you've passed through Beaumont, Texas, but the majority of our members have never seen the permanent home of our society. I've thought about taking some photos of the building, which is a beautiful, older home in Beaumont's Historic Oaks District, and our staff at work. If you would like to see something like this, let me know. I would hate to take magazine space away from African violets, unless there is an interest.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE AVM DEADLINES WHEN SUBMITTING ADS OR NOTICES FOR COMING EVENTS. These deadlines are listed on the Business Page inside the front cover of this magazine.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Memo

by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager
2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702

The African Violet Society of America now has a web site. **As of August 1, 1996 we are hot!** In just one week, our hits are greater than anticipated. (For those of you who don't have a clue as to what I'm talking about, a hit is Internet lingo for the number of times a user clicks on a particular web page. And for those of you who don't care, skip down about five paragraphs.) Check our web site out at **http://avsa.org**

You may also e-mail the office at the following:

avsa@avsa.org
offmgr@avsa.org
CindyCAVSA@aol.com

Either of the above three e-mail addresses come directly to the national headquarters in Beaumont.

We have already signed up our first member via the Internet and have received information requests. The possibilities for communication and the promotion of AVSA that the net offers are very exciting. Be sure and check out the LINKS page and access other African violet web sites. They are great! It is marvelous that so much information on African violets can be shared by people all over the world by simply clicking on an icon.

Please send your comments, suggestions, or criticism to the office. If you know of any other interesting sites pertaining to African violets, gesneriads or related subjects e-mail me and I will save a section of future columns for this subject.

Attention all Affiliate Presidents: By the end of September, you will be sent a letter regarding Affiliate Liability Insurance for 1997. It is very important that you return the letter and payment for the 1997 insurance by November 1. If your treasurer normally takes care of this, please pass the letter on to them. If you do not receive the letter by October 15, please call the office and let me know so I can get one to you. It is imperative that the office knows if your club desires the insurance for 1997 by November 1.

You can now purchase a **windows version of the MVL** from the AVSA office. The name of the program is First Class and there is an article on page 39 of this issue about the program. It was used for entries at the Atlanta convention show and received rave reviews. First Class was created by AVSA member Joe Bruns of Hanover Park, IL. I want to thank Joe for developing this program and sending it to AVSA.

We also carry the MVL on diskette that is a DOS based version. The cost is $25 postpaid and comes on a 3.5 inch floppy. It is 1.4 MBytes and is "universal" for IBM and MAC computers. This program allows the user to upload data into most database, wordprocessing, or spreadsheet programs. This version was developed by Jay McKnight of Cuppertino, CA. We also appreciate all of the work Jay put into this for AVSA. He is one of those unpaid volunteers that work so hard to make AVSA the success that it is.

Like most of you, it is too early for me to think about Christmas, but I would like to make a suggestion. The 50th Anniversary Book and 50th Anniversary Pin would make terrific Christmas gifts for that special violet friend. Either one of these would also make a very nice award to be given at your Fall or Spring Show, or a special award to a club member or outgoing president. Order now while we still have them available.

We still get numerous inquiries on the CD ROM that was proposed two years ago. The Board of Directors voted at convention to discontinue this program. The board felt that the project had been placed on hold by the Agricultural Library and that our funds would be better spent elsewhere.

I would like to take a moment to remind all of our members to please send a change of address when you move. In the month of July alone, we processed over 25 returned addresses. This costs AVSA fifty cents per address. It is not a great amount of money but it does add up over a year's time. So please take the time to send in the change of address using the form on the white cover of your magazine or call the 1-800 number and let us know your new address. We also want you to get every issue of your AVM so please take a moment to send that change to us.

We are so fortunate in the USA that we have access to such great Commercial growers and can purchase, for a very nominal cost, a huge variety of beautiful African violets and related plants. Many of our commercial members also carry products specifically made for African violet culture. Take a moment to look over the ads in the back of the AVM and send for one of their catalogs or lists. We need to support these commercial members who work so hard to develop and grow these plants that we all love so much.

Question Box

James Smith
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209

Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

Once again, I'm a few days past my deadline. Having just returned from the convention in Atlanta, I'm trying to catch up on unfinished business. I've also the prospect of up to 200 members of area garden clubs visiting the shop this week. Being after the convention, of course, there are no showplants to display, and less than usual in bloom—there's actually some empty shelf space! It seems that people want to see beautiful plants at just the times when you have fewest of them.

QUESTION: *I recently purchased a species violet (S. velutina) at a local show, and discovered that it had been wicked. Can I repot it into my usual soilless mix (and top water) without danger of losing it?*

ANSWER: Certainly. If anything, I find that most of the species violets do a bit better if not kept overly moist, and like a very light, porous soil. Most grow more compactly than the modern hybrids, and seem to have a smaller root system. For this reason, I prefer to top water my species violets, and am careful not to use too large a pot. Most seem happy in 3″ or 4″ pots. Having said this, wicking is perfectly acceptable, so long as a **very** light soil mix, with plenty (50% minimum) of perlite and/or vermiculite is used.

I've recently given a few talks to some area garden clubs, whose members grow violets, but aren't really violet "enthusiasts". Answering their questions provides a nice lesson in basic violet culture. Here are some of most frequently asked.

QUESTION: *Which window should I use?*

ANSWER: Whichever window works. Since every window is unique, there's no simple answer. It's not the window, but the environment in the window area. What you want is plenty of bright light, but not direct, hot sun. Which window provides this depends upon the season, climate, type and cleanliness of glass, obstructions outside the window, and more. If there is too little light, your violet may have healthy, green foliage, but few flowers. Leaves might also grow upward, rather than flat, and be longer than normal. A violet receiving too much light, might exhibit tight, crowded growth, that will grow flat or hug the pot rim. Leaves might be yellow or bleached if sunlight is too strong or warm. Start with a window that you believe provides the optimal conditions, and if your violet isn't happy, move it to a better spot. Also remember that the best window may change depending upon time of year and weather conditions.

QUESTION: *Should I water from the top or bottom?*

ANSWER: It doesn't matter. Your violet's roots don't know how the water got there, and don't care. What's important is that it gets enough water when it needs it. Ideally, you'd like the soil to be slightly moist all the time. This is difficult, but if we can avoid the extremes—sogginess or dryness, our violets will be happy. The fear in watering from the top is of marking the foliage. To avoid this, use tepid (lukewarm) water, and keep wet foliage away from direct light and cold air.

QUESTION: *Should I fertilize, and with what?*

ANSWER: Yes, with any balanced fertilizer, on a regular basis. Most growers fertilize with each watering. Just like children, a growing plant needs regular feeding in moderate amounts, not huge, but infrequent, meals. Most fertilizers will give 'constant feed' instructions—follow these. If a constant-watering system such as capillary mats or wicks is being used, use fertilizer at no more than 1/2 the recommended amount. Also like children, violets need a

balanced diet. Use fertilizers that aren't overly rich in any one element. For example, I use a 20-20-20 fertilizer—very balanced. Avoid frequent use of fertilizers like an 0-6-5 or 5-50-17, which are very high in phosphorus, but extremely low in nitrogen. This nitrogen is needed for healthy, green foliage. Also avoid frequent use of fertilizers that are virtually all nitrogen, and little else, such as a 5-1-1 formula. These lack the phosphorus necessary for good blossoming.

QUESTION: *When should I repot?*

ANSWER: When the plant needs it, and never into a pot bigger than the root system can fill. Typically, this means repotting about twice a year. By this time the violet will have developed a bit of a 'neck'—the bare trunk that appears as older foliage is removed. Lower the plant by removing from the bottom of the root ball an amount equal to the length of the neck, and pushing the violet lower into the pot. Add fresh soil around the neck at the top of the pot, to cover the neck, and to encourage new root growth from this part of the plant. By doing this on a regular basis, before the neck becomes too long, the plant will suffer little or no stress, and should continue to grow and bloom as usual. When potting into a larger pot, never use a pot bigger than justified by the root system. This is a point I always stress to visitors to the shop, since most want to immediately pot a miniature variety into a much larger pot. (Semi)miniature varieties won't produce root systems bigger than 2 to 2 1/2″, so they could never fully use the soil provided in, say, a 4″ pot. Without roots to use the water, the excess soil would stay too damp, and might cause the healthy roots to rot. Standard size varieties, however, are perfectly happy, at maturity, in a 4″ pot.

QUESTION: *What kind of soil should I use?*

ANSWER: Any light, porous, soil. Unfortunately, most soils sold at the local supermarket or department store don't have these properties. Pick the bag up. If it feels like a solid block of wet sand (or worse yet, wet cement), it's **not** what you want—even if it claims to be "violet soil". Some experienced growers could probably grow nice violets in these mixes, and worse, but these mixes are less tolerant of the mistakes in potting and watering that less experienced growers often make. What you want is a light, 'fluffy' mix. Look for a soil with plenty of perlite and/or vermiculite in the mix. If the mix you're buying isn't "light" enough, buy a separate bag of perlite/vermiculite and mix plenty of this with the soil mix before using. A light soil is especially important if you decide to use a constant-watering system.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Ruth Warren • 99 Hancock St., #254 • Tiverton, RI 02878

Garden State AVC Judge's fee for Alice Easter	$ 5.00
Garden State AVC Speaker's fee for Janet Reimer	20.00
Frances Young	15.00
Tri-State AVC In memory of Elizabeth "Peg" Rios	25.00
NASA Area AVS Speaker fee for Margery Clive	50.00
Crosstown AVC Madison	15.00
Quad City AVS	25.00
Bill & Paula Foster In memory of Ron Davidson's father	20.00
First AVS of Dallas In memory of Ron Davidson's father	15.00
AVS of Lower Bucks County, PA fee for J. Reimer, S. Burke and D. Tooker	
Patricia M. Wright	20.00
AVS of Springfield In memory of Peg Rios	100.00
Taiwan AVC	200.00
Deborah Smith	10.00
First AVC of Wichita Falls Margie Harrell Installation	10.00
Lloyd Bodin	10.00
AVC of Morris County	15.00
AVCMCL of Southern CA	40.00
Anonymous	25.00
Late Bloomers AVC	5.00
Koichi Kamino	10.00
Metro St. Louis AVC	15.00
Ronald Lee Ennis	10.00
Thank you's for Building Maintenance Fund contributions from the Atlanta Convention from the AVSA Building Fund Committee	1750.00

Sincere thanks to all contributors. AVSA appreciates your generous support and contributions.

A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Chirita subrhomboidea

The best gesneriad of the Atlanta convention, grown by a non-commercial, was a gorgeous Chirita subrhomboidea, entered by Libby Behnke of Delaware. The illustration does not even begin to do it justice. Wish you could see my slide showing the dark green, husky foliage with those 2¼ to 2½-inch wide lavender blooms. The plant was about fourteen inches across and perfectly symmetrical.

Libby's plant stand is covered with heavy, clear plastic which helps maintain 70% humidity. This Chirita and its sister plant, grow on a cool, lower shelf about nine or ten inches under one warm and one cool white fluorescent. She turned them twice a week, hence, the perfect symmetry of both foliage and bloom. It was watered from the bottom with her regular African violet fertilizing program.

It was so pleasing to see this plant because I had been given a cutting during a visit about two years ago. Not being sure how to show it, she called Frances Batcheller to see if the small leaves should be removed. They were to be left intact because they are producing bloom stems that were visible if you looked closely. Libby also grew the third best Holtkamp Memorial Collection. Congratulations!

CONVENTION TALK

Wait until you see Hortense's new standard violet, 'Alamo Goldrush' hybrid. It has fluffy yellow blooms on dark pink ruffled, variegated foliage. Watch for it.

It made me feel great to see another wonderful Chirita grown by Betty Ann Lewandowski. Sidney Sorano grew a huge Aeschynanthus to take Best Commercial gesneriad.

Marge Fargeot has taken over the distribution of Allegro. This product was available through Irene Fredette. It is a fantastic tonic when added to the first watering of propagated leaves and to the baby plants when they are removed from the mother leaf. It really helps prevent transplant shock. Look for it in the ads of commercials like Cape Cod Violetry.

Ralph Robinson has some great Streptocarpus hybrids, look for his Bristol Luv It, just smashing with many colors on each flower.

CODA GARDENS

Coda Gardens will no longer be shipping plants. In the future they will be selling gesneriads at major shows only. Also, please remove Les Violettes Natalie from my last list of suppliers. They, too, are no longer in business.

GRANGER GARDENS

Granger Gardens of Medina, Ohio, will be closed by the time you read this. With sadness, we send many thanks to the wonderful Eyerdom family for hybridizing all those beautiful African violets. Plants like Granger's Wonderland will always hold special memories for all of us who have grown for show. They have been hybridizing since 1947. Chimeras have been their specialty for many years. Jim will continue to hybridize on a limited basis. I must tell you, he showed me a yellow chimera that he is working on. Although I thought the stripes were beautifully clear, he said it needed more work.

We also discussed the strange phenomenom of anther pigmentation appearing on the petals of many seedlings. Are

the yellows an extension of the anther tissue? Jim gave me a few seedlings to observe. I don't know what to make of these.

Those of us who have loved Valencia and Desert Dawn, sincerely thank the Eyerdoms for providing these unique plants. We love you for it and wish you the best of luck in the future.

ROCK BOTTOM FARM

Jonathan Ford is still growing lots of beautiful Streptocarpus on Rock Bottom Farm. Members of our Pittsburgh Violet Society visited him recently. As always, we came away with great plants like S. 'Fireworks', which has an explosion of bright red veins on a white flower.

Two new fantasy flowers are S. Kaleidoscope and Morning Song, both are prolific bloomers. Did you see the great article by Larry Hodgson and Ralph Robinson in Indoor and Patio Gardening's spring issue? Great color, too.

Your Plants and the Changing Seasons

by Sue Hodges, Australia

As the weather becomes cooler there are a number of chores that need to be done. I find that autumn is the busiest time of the year after spring. The chores that are done in autumn make a great difference to the plants that I have the following spring and for our Annual Show.

Any plants that I plan to really train for the Show need to be well-established before the weather gets cold. Although my room is heated, the plants don't grow so quickly over winter and I will not have plants the size I want unless I start early. I have plants waiting to be repotted. Later, these will be put into larger pots depending on their growth. These plants will be fertilized in the hopes that they will make good, symmetrical plants with masses of flowers.

Plants that are not intended for Show also benefit from attention at this time of the year. Plants that look a little tired from the summer heat can be rejuvenated by repotting after stripping back some of the older foliage. I find that my violets do not flower well in the hot weather but really put on a great show once the heat eases. Some fresh potting mix and a tidy-up can increase the autumn display from your plants.

Although this year has not been very hot I have still noticed that some plants have been heat affected. My room is quite hot in the afternoon and some plants respond by having blooms that are slightly distorted. Sometimes blooms are smaller with narrowed petals. Some blooms have distorted stamens and pistols, if they have them at all. Bloom color is often affected by heat with fantasy speckling being less and white edges much finer, if they don't disappear altogether. Some white blooms respond to heat by showing some pink coloration and bicolor plants sometimes have solid color blooms. My plants enjoy the autumn much more than summer!

My outdoor plants also need attention in the autumn. The Achimenes are in full bloom now but the flowers will lessen as the nights become cooler. As these plants become rather tatty I decrease the amount of water I give them and allow them to go dormant. I leave the foliage until it is really dry before trimming it back to soil level so that I can store the pots. I always leave the rhizomes in the pots until spring and give the pots a very occasional watering over winter.

Enjoy the show your violets put on in autumn but why not pot up a couple of plants and train them for the Show? Maybe you could win Best in Show this year.

Reprinted with permission from "African Violet News" Official Journal of the AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW Inc., Australia

Beginners Column

Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

VIOLETS ON THE COUCH
LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR PLANTS HAVE TO SAY

(Imagine that your troubled violets have found a counselor who will give ear to their deepest feelings, their problems, and their troubles communicating with you. Today, you get to hear what your plants have to say. We hope it will open your eyes to better communication and mutual understanding.)

Receptionist: Sir, your first patient is here to see you.

Counselor: How do you do ... may I call you Saintpaulia?

Violet: Good afternoon. You may call me that if you want ...it is my name...but my closest friends usually call me African violet.

Counselor: Very well, Mr. Violet. What seems to be troubling you today?

Violet: It's my present location in life. You see, my owner has this idea that I'm just part of the decoration in her life. She has me sitting as a centerpiece in the center of her dining room table.

Counselor: That sounds like a very honored position. What do you think is wrong with that?

Violet: The light! I don't get enough light! I can see it coming in through the window. I can see it from a dim bulb in the ceiling and even a bright tube in the kitchen, but I can't get enough of it to do me any good!

Counselor: Now, now. Don't get so excited. Just lay back down again and tell me how you feel about that.

Violet: I feel like I don't have any pep. The light is what makes me go. Without it, I'm like an engine running on cheap gas. I need the light to make chlorophyll, and once I've made chlorophyll, I need the light to make sugar so that I've got enough energy to do everything else. The wise guys call it photosynthesis. I just know that without light I'm tired all the time.

Counselor: That's very interesting. Have you tried to do anything about this?

Violet: I've done everything I can. I haven't bloomed in a long time, because it would take more energy than I can muster. My leaves are getting smaller and weaker, since it takes energy to build strong cells. Even my roots are smaller than they used to be. I've tried to stretch my leaves out and up toward the light and even tipped myself sideways so that I get as much light as possible. I've put more space between my leaf axils so that I can grow closer to the light. Now look at me! I look like a tall mint-green spider! I'm supposed to be a perfectly flat forest-green wheel of foliage with no gaps. I still could be if only I could get some light!

Counselor: Surely your owner has noticed all of this. What does she have to say?

Violet: Would you believe that she is telling her friends that she thinks it is time to throw me out and buy a new violet? It isn't my time to die! I can be beautiful again if I could just get more light! It would be awful to do this to another plant. On the other hand, (sob) maybe there would be some light out in the garbage can.

Counselor: There, there. Let's concentrate on the positive. What do you think would help you be beautiful again?

Violet: I really want to sit right by that window, maybe only six inches away. Oh, to have twelve hours of bright rich light every day. Of course, there's a downside. Sometimes it gets pretty hot in the direct light ... it would be nice if someone could filter that light just enough to keep me a little bit more comfortable. And if that's not possible, how about letting me sit under that fluorescent light for

twelve hours a day...nice and close to it, so that my leaves could get their fill of that beneficial light. If that happened, I'd be able to make chlorophyll again. I'd get greener, and I'd have the energy to bloom and grow and look healthy again.

Counselor: Our time's up for today, Mr. Violet. Let's see if your owner doesn't make some adjustments soon. Call me again if you feel the need to talk.

Violet: Thank you. It's good to talk to someone who listens!

Counselor: Yes, well good-by. Is my next patient here?

Receptionist: Yes sir. She's right here ... Miss Rainbow Violet. (There's a problem, sir. She seems to be leaving little puddles behind her wherever she goes.)

Counselor: Thank you. Come right in, Rainbow. Go ahead and be seated on the couch. Err, on the other hand, let me put a plastic cover on it first. Or would you rather just sit in the sink?

Rainbow: Oh Boo Hoo! That's just it. I'm so wet, it's embarrassing!

Counselor: That's all right now. Just tell me how you got this way!

Rainbow: My owner has a thing about water! I'm getting too much, and now I'm just dripping everywhere. She's been giving me water without checking to see that I already have plenty. The bottom of my pot is already standing in water, and she adds more! That old water is murky and stale, and it doesn't smell very pretty down there!

Counselor: What does that do to you?

Rainbow: It makes my root cells collapse! All that water with no air ruins my roots. Sometimes even my main stem starts to get mushy around the outside because my cells are breaking down. It makes me awfully vulnerable to insects and fungus that can kill me outright!

Counselor: Does it do anything else?

Rainbow: Oh, yes. Whenever I lose root hairs, the tiny tubes (I call them xylem and phloem) that carry moisture and nutrients up to my leaves are adversely affected. If enough of my roots fail, the tubes can't supply all the water and food that my leaves need. The next thing that happens is that my older leaves start to fail. They look like they're wilted from being too dry ... and they are! Dead roots can't give my whole plant structure the water it needs, and I have to let my older leaves die so that my younger leaves can survive.

Counselor: Do you stop blooming when that happens?

Rainbow: I have to survive somehow, right? If my roots and my leaves are drowning, the only survival method left is to bloom and hope that I can make a seed pod. I'll keep on blooming, if I can find the energy, right up to the end ... (sniffle) I hope it doesn't come to that!

Counselor: Can't you do anything to protect yourself?

Rainbow: Oh, I try. The only place I can grow healthy roots is where I can reach some air with them. Usually there's a little air in that tiny space between the soil and the pot, so I grow a lot of my new roots in that area around the pot. There's also more air close to the surface of the soil, so many of my roots are right up at the top of the soil.

Counselor: Is it always like this?

Rainbow: No. Sometimes she forgets to water me at all. I can go weeks without a drink. Then one day she'll breeze in and see me all limp. Then watch out ... it's flood time! She'll give me so much water that my roots have no air around them. She doesn't understand that when I'm terribly dry, all my usual functions are slowed down to conserve water. I have to start up gradually, one system at a time until I'm back to normal. I need just a little water to plump up my dry roots. Once the cells in my roots are back to normal, they can begin to absorb moisture to carry up into the rest of me. But if there's no air, it won't work. I can just lay there limp for days, even though there's plenty of water! It's complicated, doctor, it has to do with pressures and physics. But is it so hard to show a little restraint and just water me a little when I'm so dry? She should come back the next day with a good drink when I could use it.

Counselor: Sounds like going dry is pretty hard on you. How do you cope while you wait for her to come back and water again?

Rainbow: I already told you about how I go limp. I shut down my systems for pulling water up from my roots and releasing it into the air (scientists call that process "transpiration") since there isn't any water that can be wasted. That stops the nutrients from traveling through my cells too, so I start to starve. I can't afford to waste water on a blossom or any new growth...not even a flower bud. I go as dormant as possible while I wait for water. I can wait for a long time, even months if I have to. It's not so bad ... actually, I can deal with cold and heat a little better when I'm so dry.

Counselor: I like to ask my patients to imagine a perfect world. If everything were perfect for you, what would it be like?

Rainbow: If it were perfect, my roots would stretch out in equal parts of water, air, and soil. My owner would plant me in a really loose, porous potting mix that wouldn't hold more water than air around my roots. She would give me just enough moisture to keep that balance perfect all the time, so that my roots could grow and grow. Then they'd be able to push up water and nutrients to all of my leaves and flowers and I'd grow and bloom.

Counselor: Do you have any suggestions on how that might happen?

Rainbow: I've heard about these wonderful constant-water systems that supply water to the roots all the time. I'd like my owner to try wicking me or growing me on a capillary mat, or maybe put me in a special self-watering pot. Life would sure be good if I could get her to water me more consistently!

Counselor: I think we'll have to end on that note with you today. With a little communication, maybe your owner will begin to understand. Here, let me wipe up that puddle for you! Bye now. Is my group here yet?

Receptionist: Yes, they're all here. Right this way please, your counselor is ready now.

Counselor: Please, each of you, make yourselves comfortable. You all seem to be doing fairly well. What seems to be troubling you this week? Let's start with you, Miss Star Violet, how are things going?

Star: I've been talking for months about how my owner keeps forgetting to fertilize me. I've been getting weaker and weaker without nutrients. My leaves were so getting so pale and I couldn't produce enough energy to grow or to bloom. Well, this week, things got better. He brought home a package of constant-feed fertilizer that was made just for violets, and he mixed it up in my regular water. Wow! Did that water taste great! All sorts of good things started happening inside me. My cells got stronger, my roots wanted to grow ... and for the first time in months, I feel like making a flower bud!

Counselor: That's great to hear Star! But Mrs. Lotsa Blossoms is shaking her head. Do you have something you want to share with us?

Lotsa: Just watch out, that's all! My owner is getting carried away with the fertilizing. First she planted me in a soil mix that had a charge of fertilizer in it, then she gave me my regular fertilizer with my water, and then she gave me an extra dose of a super-phosphate to make me bloom hard for show; I can't take it anymore. I've got so much fertilizer salt building up inside me that I'm starting to blast my cells!

Counselor: That sounds dangerous, Lotsa. What exactly is happening?

Lotsa: All that salt inside me and around my roots in the soil is starting to pull the water the wrong way. My cells can't get water, especially those poor little cells around the outside of my leaves. They're starting to collapse. My little center leaves are drying up too, and there's an awful crust of salt building up on them.

Counselor: Can anyone suggest a solution? Mr. Show Plant, do you have an idea?

Show: My owner overfertilized me once, but when he saw me starting to get sick, he gave me a good leaching. He set me in a pan of room-temperature water for an hour or so. That let all of the salts in my potting mix dissolve. Then he watered me from the top with more room temperature water, until the water ran out the bottom of my pot. I can't tell you how good that made me feel! He's also been really good about changing my soil every six months or so. That keeps my pH at a good level to use the fertilizer he gives me.

Counselor: We're glad you shared that, Show. Does anyone else have something he'd like to bring up? Mrs. Vintage Violet, do you perhaps have some wisdom to share?

Vintage: In my years, I've seen a good number of different pots. Maybe some of you young ones would like to know how my owner has kept me alive all these years.

Counselor: That sounds very helpful. Go on.

Vintage: As we get older, you know, we start to get these scruffy-looking necks. It's just a part of nature. My older leaves aged and died off. Sometimes my owner would groom away leaves that had gotten marred or didn't look quite right. Anyway, I developed a neck. My owner took care of it right away, mind you. As soon as she saw the first inch of it, she repotted me. She lifted me out of my pot, scraped my neck to get rid of that old dried surface, cut away about an inch from the bottom of my root ball and put me right back into the same sized pot. She put nice fresh potting mix on top to cover up my ugly neck and gave me a good watering. It wasn't more than a few weeks and I had new roots growing out. I'll bet there isn't one of you here who could guess how old I really am!

Counselor: You do look good for your age, Vintage! You are pretty close to perfect yourself! Any last comments before we close the session today? Yes, Show?

Show: I just want to share one more reason why I always look so good. My owner keeps me clean! Sometimes when it's been dusty, he sprays my leaves with soapy water and then rinses me clean and pats me dry. It is amazing how much brighter the light seems when it doesn't have go through grime on my leaves. It doesn't hurt me a bit as long as the water is room temperature, and he doesn't put me back into direct sunlight while I'm wet.

Counselor: Every violet should have it as perfect as you do! Well, group, that wraps it up for today. I want each of you to think about the things we've talked about today. Try to let your owners know what is wrong when they make mistakes, but forgive them when they fail. Remember to reward them for the good things they do for you too! You can hope they will find a good support group too, like another friend who loves violets, or even better, an African violet club. Maybe someday, you'll all be as happy as Mr. Show.

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674

I've often wondered if the hustle-bustle of an AVSA Convention was worth it. **YOU BET IT WAS.** In fact it was the best ever. My hat is off to the men and women of Georgia who made it all possible. I met many new people, renewed old friendships, participated in some foolish things and had an overall great time. A really big "Thank you" to those of you who stopped by the Optimara leaf table and said "HI!"

Your response to the AVSA MOST WANTED LIST has been most gratifying, but I am really despondent over the loss of some of the plants grown by Jim Eyerdom and Les Violettes Natalia who are no longer in business, and Racine Hopper, who has passed away. My condolences to Racine's family.

Please look in the past issues of the AVM and check to see if you are growing any of the plants listed there. My current list follows. Once again, thanks to all of you who share your collections with others and remember to always return the postage whether asked for or not.

AVSA MOST WANTED LIST

American
Ballet Dolly
Bee Tee Lee
Bulls Eye
Bunny Hop
Butterflies
Cherokee Rose
Circus Clown
Crystal
Deep Sea Treasure
Dippity Doo
Double Blue Boy
Edge of Elegance
Eleanor
Emperor Wilhelm
Fairy Queen (not Ballet)
GiGi (not Rhapsodie)
Gosh
Gr. Blue Fashionaire
Gr. Jim Dandy
Great Find
Lilibelle
Little Dee
Little Doe
May Dance
Meg
Mohawk Trail
Morning Thunder
Ms. Fizz
Opt. Nebraska
Pamela
Park Avenue
Peepers
Pioneer Trail
Sarava
Sea Shell
Silver Lining
Splish Splash
Suncoast Wedgewood
Sweet Honesty
Targeteer
Tinted Snow
Top Notch
Vulcan's Treasure
Wr. High Country

Will You Help Us Top This!

Anne Tinari, Chairman
Membership & Promotion

With anticipation and hopes for a renewal in AVSA membership, may we remind you of the following facts.

Our Membership of 1957 was 14,700. In 1958 there were 300 affiliates. In the year 1966 AVSA had 352 affiliates and a membership of 11,000, by 1974 membership rose to 13,000 and in 1975 had another rise to 16,000. We had 18,000 members in 1976 and boasted of 448 affiliates.

We urge all AVSA members to help us regain these marvelous totals. We can do it together by asking each member to get a new member.

These figures are authentic, taken from the beautiful new book "FIFTY YEARS WITH THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC." which was introduced at our 50th Convention in Atlanta, GA and is now available by mail through our AVSA office.

AVSA Library

Jackie Jones
Library Chairman
607 14th Ave
Durant, IA 52747

RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIALS

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REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St. Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form please include in your request **(1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet. (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) date to be shown.** Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

SLIDE PROGRAMS—VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired, with information outlined above. Give first, second and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office, immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for $50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for $100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs post paid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.

A $5.00 PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Return programs to:
AVSA OFFICE
2375 NORTH STREET
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited numbers available.
4. Cost of slide program with cassette is $10.00; and cost of slide program without cassette is $8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video programs $10.00.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

SECTION I: CONVENTION SHOWS

Slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

138L **"A GRAND REUNION"**: (C) (80 Slides) Meet the best of award winning plants and designs from the Reunion in Dallas, 1988.

162L **"A ROYAL TREAT"**: (C) (80 Slides) Kansas City, 1989 be treated royally with slide projections of beautiful plants and designs.

163L **"THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT"**: (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award winning plants and designs displayed The New England Way, Boston 1990.

166L **"VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE"**: (C) (80 Slides) Award winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.

167L **"A CENTURY OF VIOLETS"** (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award winning plants and designs from Violet Heritage and Horizons, Columbus 1992.

169L **"MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS"** (C) (80 Slides) of award winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.

171L **"A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS"** (C) (80 Slides) Award winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.

175L **"ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS"** (C) (80 Slides) Award winning exhibits- Horticultars and design from the 1995 St. Louis convention.

179L **"ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH"** (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA. 1996.

SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

A series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

142L **"ORANGE BLOSSOMS SPECIALS"** (C) (80 Slides) "Specials" Slides of new cultivars in 1987. Submitted by hybridizers, amateur and commercials, compiled and narrated by "Sundown"Pittman.

141L **"NEW RAYS OF HOPE"** (C) (80 Slides) The best of the new introductions in 1988; slides submitted by amateur and commercial hybridizers for compilation by Ray "Sundown" Pittman.

160L **"FUTURE VIOLETS WITH A ROYAL FLAIR"** (C) (80 Slides) The 1989 contributions of new varieties submitted by amateur and commercial hybridizers. Program prepared and narrated with a flair by J.R. "Sundown" Pittman.

164L **"BOSTON'S NEW BEAUTIES"** (C) (80 Slides) A capsule version of the "Beauties". Program prepared at the 1990 Boston convention by J.R. "Sundown" Pittman.

165L **"NUGGET AT THE GOLDEN STATE"** (C) (80 Slides) An abbreviated version of the new introduction program presented by "Sundown" Pittman at the 1991 Santa Clara, California convention.

168L **"GEMS OF COLUMBUS"** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the Columbus, Ohio convention.

170L **"LANCASTER LOVELIES"** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.

172L **"DENVER DEBUTANTS"** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 Introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.

176L **"WE MET IN ST. LOUIS"** (C)(80 Slides) Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.

180L **"FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING"** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.

SECTION III: AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

A series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. Somewhat dated, but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

147L **"THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT"** (77 Slides) A good basic program, identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.

140L **"MULTIPLYING SAINT PAULIAS"** (65 Slides) Basic program on African violet propagation, including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.

150L **"THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS"** (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing nd grooming miniature and semiminiature African violets.

153L **"VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS"** (79 Slides) A basic lesson for beginners on setting leaves, separating baby plants from mother leaf and dividing multiple crown plant including suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and a way to treat a necky plant.

151L **"THE SAINT PAULIA SPECIES"** (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A dedicated work by Neva Anderson.

161L **"POINTERS IN JUDGING"** (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for Judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.

SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Programs Identifying African violet cousins, their care and propagation.

139L **"MEET THE FAMILY"** (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".

178L **"UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN"** (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

Slide programs identifying pests and diseases and the impact on Africa violet cultivars.

132L **"AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS"** (C) (52 Slides) A short succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.

152L **"VIOLET TROUBLES"** (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Programs demonstrating use of African violets in unusual applications.

145L **"SHOW OFF YOUR VIOLETS"** (70 Slides) A program showing many ways to use African violets for home decoration, party favors and table arrangements.

VIDEO TAPES

173L "**AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN**" Ken Froboese talks violets—a visit with Ken in his green house, Hill Country African Violets.

177L **"OPTIMARA TENNESSEE CROSSROADS"** A mini tour of the Nashville facilities of Holtkamp Greenhouses.

PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month , as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is $3.00, and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

155L **JUST FOR FUN PACKET**: "A Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE and donated to the AVSA Library.

156L **NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET**: This packet contains samples from entries entered for judging for convention awards. Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.

157L **PROGRAM PLANNING PACKET**: Suggestion to help a program chairman, or committee, plan the programs for a club's activities.

158L **SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET**: Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas, and those clubs planning their first show.

159L **YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET**: This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs and top prize winners from the recent AVSA convention competition. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook, and for those interested In submitting their yearbook for competition.

Thinking Small

Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004

Starting At The Top

Why waste words: small ones proved they are possibly the violet of the future, especially when travelling great distances to shows. Best in Show was "Beginner's Luck" shown by Kathy Lahti. Many of us have grown this lovely, easy forming plant before, but rarely to such perfection. It has large, medium pink blooms atop dark green tailored foliage. How many of us are going to try growing it again? Second Best in Show was "Definitely Darryl", with pretty two-tone blue blooms and fine white edges above perfectly symmetrical Tommie-Lou foliage. Hortense Pittman should be proud of her fine introduction. These two plants comprised the best AVSA Small Collection along with "Sugar Bear Blues". This early Ness' cultivar was very compact and its blooms were a beautiful and pure medium-blue.

Second Best AVSA Small Collection was a trio of trailers! "Beacon Trail", "Cirelda" and "Rob's Sticky Wicket" made up the group. All were fairly uniform in size and in abundant bloom. Linda Lubé was the exhibitor who took home this award. Alice Grundy, last year's big winner, exhibited some very well grown small ones including the Best Trailer "Tiny Wood Trail". (This was not the plant that won Best in Show last year, but a smaller sibling.) This cultivar can be very temperamental, but is well worth growing. Alice also had a very nice "Spring Peach" which won Best Miniature. This is another great plant from Hortense that is well worth trying. It is so floriferous that it covers itself with bloom.

Small ones also showed their best when it came to the Holtkamp Memorial Collections. Palma Trapp won the top award with "Optimara Little Crystal", "Optimara Little Amethyst" and "Optimara Rose Quartz". These tiny little plants were grown to near perfection. The second best award went to Kathy Lahti with "Optimara Little Crystal", "Optimara Little Pearl" and "Optimara Little Rhodonite". These little jewels must be good travelers because both growers are from Minnesota. By the way, could someone please tell me how they grow the mini Optimaras? I picked up some advice at convention, but could always use more!

Plants To Get Excited About

Other noteworthy plants exhibited in amateur horticulture included: "Bud's Royalty" a perfectly formed, variegated semi that easily puts on gorgeous double bright fuchsia blooms with a thin white edge. "Dean's Ivory Lace" is a stout little mini that grows so easily! It has dark Tommie-Lou variegation, and crowns itself with perfect ivory-white single blooms that last and last. This plant appeared several times in the show and seems to be able to be grown nationwide. "Dean's Plum Peacock" has gorgeous pointed mosaic variegated foliage that is dark green with some pink and white. This contrasts beautifully with the ruffled and fluted wine blooms. "Ness' Grape Fizz" appears to be a favorite plant of several growers. It has dark foliage with bright reddish-purple blooms and a white edge. This one is on my wish list! "Ness' Cranberry Swirls" is also a lovely, well-formed plant that blooms heavily. It's a variegate with double, white and red striped blooms. This chimera had been bypassed by me for a long time, but this year I finally broke down and bought one.

"Rob's Perfect Peach" is proving to be everything it has been built up to be. It has perfect, small leaves of dark green that stay symmetrical, but the best part is the abundantly produced pinkish-peach blooms that top the plant. Each bloom clearly shows its yellow pollen sacks which add to this cultivar's beauty. (I never thought of pollen sacks in this manner until I saw this plant!) "Rob's Pink Puff" exhibits nice wavy dark foliage with very prettily frilled cotton candy pink blooms. Finally, "Rob's Willy Nilly" also made several appearances throughout the show. It's foliage is light green and plain, but this plant crowds itself with so many pale pink double blooms that you can't resist liking it!

Tempting Novelties

Several convention participants indicated their interest and enthusiasm for girl foliage. There were several intriguing small ones exhibited that received a lot of notice. Hortense showed "Petite Blarney" in the commercial section. This

lovely little plant shows a lot of promise with its double pink blooms and clear green edge appearing above dark green well-behaved girl foliage. I believe she indicated this will be classed as a mini and will be available next year. It is something to look forward to. Her "Peppermint Girl" was also shown in the amateur classes. This sweet little mini also showed well-behaved girl foliage with pretty rose blooms that had fine white edges. "Baby Jay" was another plant from the mini classes and while it is not very well known, it has two intriguing features, well-behaved medium green girl foliage with bell-shaped blue and white blooms. This plant was hybridized by a grower from Kansas, Mary Gall. Mary also hybridized another plant that received a lot of attention "Little Jayhawker". This very reliable plant has medium to dark green perfectly behaved girl foliage and with very good cultivation and a high phosphorous diet its blooms will become almost chimera like, turning to white with blue stripes. While these plants are not extremely heavy bloomers, they do bloom easily and constantly if you let them.

Going Commercial

In the commercial section, Sidney Sorano exhibited some absolutely perfect small ones. Her Best AVSA Small Collection in the commercial section was comprised of "Rob's Boondoggle", "Rob's Red Rooster" and the best plant in the commercial section "Rob's Fuddy Duddy". Without a doubt, the latter is one of the most perfect and easy-growing showplants around. There were several other plants of this cultivar throughout the showroom, all grown to the same degree of perfection and beauty. "Rob's Red Rooster" is one that should be tried also. It has dark pointed foliage and its blooms are an unusual yet very pretty shade of red. "Rob's Monkeyshines" is another small one that looks promising. It has shades of blue, purple, and red all thrown together in a fantasy chimera. The pansy-shaped blooms contribute to its attractiveness.

"Classic Rock" appears to be a classic small one. Very large, clear, pale lavender blooms cover nicely variegated foliage. It is also on my wish list. If you like bountiful white or very pale blooms atop easy forming foliage, "Christening Gown", "White Robi" and "Lace Shadows" are for you. The first comes atop wavy, dark foliage, the second above light green plain foliage, and the third is also above dark foliage and has pale fuchsia flecks in its bloom "Little Axel" has very unique blooms of white with bright blue "thumbprints" on each petal, similar to the new "Artist Series" of standards from Optimara. (Hybridizers, give us some more of this new type of bloom on the small ones, please!) All of the above varieties are available from Lyon Greenhouses. A very well grown "Angel Halo", hybridized by Hortense, also appeared in the commercial section. This is a very nice growing plant with a crown of mauve-rose blooms above orderly dark green foliage. Nothing fancy here, just pure perfection! "Dea Dear" is a promising light pink double held above nicely variegated foliage; it will not be available until next year.

The Newsmakers

Finally, to the commercial display tables, where most of the excitement is centered. This year, all of the best new introductions were small ones, beginning with the truly unique Best New Introduction "Rob's Blueberry Patches". This is a chimera with abundant white with medium-blue outer edge blooms. Perhaps the most beautiful thing about this cultivar is its good forming, nicely sized, Champion variegated foliage. The variegation seems to persist and is definitely an asset to this plant. The second Best New Introduction is also from Rob's Violet Barn: "Rob's Antique Rose". This is the type of bloom you'll either love or hate, but I have a feeling this plant will be around a long, long time. It has an open coppery, peachy-pink bloom with a slight frilled green edge. (Remember "Rob's Copper Cat"? The bloom is a lot like it only larger and prettier!) These blooms are held in abundance over very nice, dark, slightly wavy foliage. The good news is, "Rob's Blueberry Patches" is available now, the bad news is "Rob's Antique Rose" won't be out until next year.

The third Best New Introduction was "Dean's Sonata" grown by Hector Beccerra of the Mini Mansion. It has fascinating, bright blue and white veined blooms above beautiful mosaic variegated foliage. Also from Hector's table was "Dean's Aquarius", which is much like "Dean's Sonata" only with a larger bloom in a lighter shade of blue, also with white veining and shading. It, too, has unusual mosaic variegation. (I cannot emphasize enough the unique beauty of these two plants.) Dean's plants are available from both Hector and Shirley's House of Violets.

The Ness' didn't disappoint convention goers, either. They featured a sweet little mini called "Ness' Little Echo" on their table. This cultivar has very tiny and good forming white and green variegated foliage, nicely framing many sweet, pure white blooms. "Ness' Bashful Blue" is a pure medium-blue that sits nicely atop medium to dark green pointed plain foliage. Like all their plants, it has good potential. They also showed a seedling that we'll have to wait for until next year. This beautiful plant has dusty-rose rayed blooms with a very fine white frilled edge held above typically perfect Ness foliage. It is a really attractive cultivar!

Finally, Optimara showed a plant from their Indian Summer series, "Optimara Little Hopi II", that is very different from the other plants in this series. It has pointed, dark plain foliage framing very dark purple, blue and red fantasy blooms.

Snapshots from our First Convention

by Ellen Beckerman
Fayetteville, NY

My husband Bill and I had the great pleasure of attending our first African Violet Society of America national convention in Atlanta, Georgia this past May. Coincidentally, our society was celebrating its 50th Anniversary. There was a marvelous anniversary book that highlighted the people, places and violets of the past 50 years that made a great souvenir.

I must admit that I was a little nervous about attending a convention where I knew less than a half dozen people, but I soon found out there was nothing to be anxious about!

Tuesday of convention week, we flew in from Syracuse, NY and immediately met friendly AVSA members on the shuttle ride to the hotel. The convention was held at the beautiful Holiday Inn at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia located just north of the city of Atlanta. Their indoor and outdoor gardens are spectacular! There are woodlands paths to walk along side streams that tumble over waterfalls into delightful pools.

Wednesday morning, we took the bus tour to The Little White House, FDR's summer home, and Callaway Gardens. In lovely Callaway Gardens, we walked through one of the greenhouses and several outdoor areas. There was a special

Outdoor Gardens at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

exhibit of insect sculpture – a praying mantis, grasshopper, dragonfly and ants all trailing about the gardens. All of them in gigantic proportions!

We also visited the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Marvelling over the separate areas representing a different type of environment or garden design.

Ellen and Bill Beckerman

Back at the hotel, we spent considerable time perusing and buying from the Commercial Sales tables as well as the AVSA sponsored tables. We got really great stuff in our "Thank you" bags for donating to the AVSA Building Fund. (So neat, I even went back and donated again, so we could get another bag!)

That evening the presentations began with Carter Coleman's "Will African Violets Survive in the Wild?" It was a fascinating slide show depicting the environmental dangers to the only habitat of the wild African violet. It's so easy to think that our beautiful African violets come only from the store or our grower's tables...

Carter belongs to a remarkable organization called the Tanzania Wildlife Fund which helps the local population create renewable resources instead of destroying the rain forest habitat.

We attended the Grower's Forum for helpful information about growing African violets. It was provided by our seminar panelists in response to our questions. Friday morning, we dropped in for Rita Hilton's "Growing for the Gold" which provided us with great information on growing show-quality violets.

That afternoon I lucked into helping Ruth Rumsey and Daemon Baizan, the photographer, with setting up backgrounds, plants, and taking the pictures for our future African Violet Magazine covers. It was several hours of work that passed so quickly I had barely enough time to get changed for the Opening Dinner!

I would highly recommend that anyone attending our conventions, especially for the first time – volunteer for something – helping out was a lot of fun and I really felt a part of our AVSA family.

The Opening Dinner is a glamourous affair which could be appropriately entitled the Academy Awards for African Violets. It launches the next 24 hours of viewing the beautiful and award-winning violets in all categories. It was exciting to see both amateurs and commercial members receive their awards – and it was even better to finally be allowed into the showroom to see their violets!

Seeing all the miniature, semi-miniature, and standard varieties of African violets was incredible. To mention only a few of my favorites seems terribly unfair, but there are only so many pages of our magazine, so here it goes: a chimera called Rob's Swizzle Stick, a standard called Burmese, and, of course, the Best in Show, Beginner's Luck. There was also an amazing violet "cousin" called Aeschynanthus "speciosa." The violet design categories were equally breath-taking and I am just in awe of the underwater arrangements. Another one of the highlights of the evening was the song, Sukiyaki, performed for us in Japanese by a group of AVSA members that travelled to our convention from Japan.

On Saturday, we attended the New Introductions Luncheon and had a sneak peek of the upcoming varieties from our commercial members. There were so many varieties that I wanted to take home!

Grasshopper at Callaway Gardens

I know I've mentioned volunteering before, but the best volunteer spot is at the AVSA Sales Table with Ruth Rumsey! It was a great place to meet people! I didn't need to feel shy about approaching people since everyone who came up to the table was so nice. In fact, we discovered that two members from South Africa, Andre Möhlen and Deon Du Toit, were travelling next to Utica, NY where Deon's employer sends plants to a grower for distribution, just 45 minutes from where we live!

The annual member's meeting was held Saturday afternoon. It is our vehicle as members to comment upon events and programs sponsored by the society, make suggestions, vote upon changes and elect new board members. I was brave enough to stand up and ask a question

Ellen Beckerman and Daemon Baizan, the photographer

of the forum, which really wasn't difficult at all.

The Grand Finale Dinner was that evening. The Roll Call of States and Countries was impressive; there were people at the convention from all over the U.S. and the world! The recognition of the Honorary Life Members, and the Hall of Fame Award shows how active and passionate AVSA members can be. The skit/invitation to next year's convention in Florida was very enjoyable. Their costumes were great. I liked the pink flamingo the best!

Bill and I were very surprised to discover that we had been awarded a one year honorary membership for our work scanning the color pictures from old issues of AVM for the 50th Anniversary book. It was a big job that we really enjoyed doing and we were so pleased to be remembered; especially when everyone in our society seems to be contributing so much.

Now that we are back home again, I've been showing my album of beautiful African violet pictures to my relatives, friends and interested colleagues. I can't help but think that we are all African violet ambassadors, each in our own way. I am so grateful that we've met and made friends with so many people who share our enthusiasm for African violets. We are really looking forward to next year's convention in Florida to see the friends we've met this year, and hope to make new friends with those of you joining us there for the first time!

Beginner's Luck - Best In Show

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

Now that you have gone through your seedlings and eliminated those that were nice, but not particularly outstanding, what should you do next? In theory, you could immediately give names to the surviving plants and register them. However, please resist the temptation to do this and instead, consider the following:

1. Test your hybrid plant for genetic stability by propagating it through three generations. The original plant is the first generation. Plants produced from leaf cuttings are the second generation. The third generation is produced from leaf cuttings of the second generation plants. A hybrid is usually considered stable if it shows the exact same characteristics in all three generations.

2. Show the plant to your club members. Do they think your hybrid has good characteristics? Would they grow it as part of their collection? Would they pay money to obtain this plant?

3. Share leaves or babies of the plant with your club members. How does the plant grow for them? Did it grow well under their conditions? Did they notice any problems in growth or genetic stability?

4. Grow the plant for show and enter it in the seedling class. How well did the foliage shape for show? Was the bloom count high? What remarks did the judges make about the plant?

The African Violet Society of America does not have a "test garden" to screen new hybrids. We are dependent on the integrity of our hybridizers to release only the best plants possible. Please release and register only your best plants!

Q: *One of my plants is producing leaves that appear to be half "boy" and half "girl" foliage. What is going on?*

A: The growing point in the crown of the plant has evidently mutated so that some of the cells have changed from "boy" foliage to "girl" foliage. As the leaves are forming, they are being made from both kinds of cells. The mixture of genetic types is being expressed in the leaves. Evidently the cells are segregated so that half of the cells forming the leaf have the "girl" foliage and the other half the "boy" foliage.

Your plant is repeating the mutation of 'Blue Boy' that gave rise to the "girl" foliage type. The original mutation was found in a plantlet and all of the cells showed the leaf shape change. This plant was named 'Blue Girl' and was the start of the "girl" foliage characteristic.

Q: *I've noticed that the new cultivars don't have leaves that are as hairy as the older plants. Can a high amount of leaf hair be bred back into today's plants?*

A: This is an interesting observation and one that I feel may well be true. I don't think that there has been a purposeful selection against the amount of leaf hair, but when hybridizers select for traits such as flower color, the leaf hair trait may have been somewhat lost or diluted over time.

If you want plants with hairy leaves, try crossing two cultivars with hairy leaves together. You may wish to use one of the older cultivars that have the hairy leaves you desire. The amount of leaf hair should be additive and some of the seedlings will have hairier leaves than the parents. Other seedlings will have the same or less leaf hair than the parents and can be removed from the breeding program.

Several generations of selection for leaf hair should result in plants with very hairy leaves. An alternative is to use one of the species plants as a parent. *Saintpaulia tongwensis* and 'Sigi Falls' have very hairy leaves and could be used to increase the amount of leaf hair. The other parent should be chosen with care to compensate for the single dropping flowers and other less desirable traits of the species.

Q: Some of the Tommie Lou variegated plants have lovely amounts of pink in the non-green areas. How can this trait be bred into offspring?

A: The pink areas in Tommie Lou variegated plants result when the red leaf-backing trait is added to the variegation trait. Try using a Tommie Lou variegated plant as the seed parent and pollinate it with a plant that has strong red-backed leaves. The red leaf-backing trait is a genetic dominant and will be inherited in the first generation. Be sure that the Tommie Lou variegated parent is used as the seed parent. This variegation trait is inherited only through the maternal parent and will not be expressed if the plant is used as the pollen parent. With luck, 50-100% of the offspring will have pink variegated leaves.

Q: Why do some of the commercial cultivars not grow as large as other standards?

A: The commercial greenhouses can only stay in business by selling as many plants as possible. The larger the plant, the more space it takes and the fewer plants that can be raised on the bench space. Also, large plants are more difficult and expensive to ship. Therefore, many of the commercial greenhouses have selected for plants that do not grow too large.

Q: I recently saw a plant described as having "longifolia" leaves. What is this and how is it inherited?

A: Longifolia leaves refers to a leaf trait where the leaves are much longer than wide, resulting in narrow strap-like leaves. The trait is a genetic dominant and will be inherited from a longifolia parent in the first generation. This trait has never become very popular because plants with this foliage do not develop the overlapping layers of leaves that are desirable in show plants.

AVSA Booster Fund

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM APRIL 1st - MAY 31st

First AVS of Denton, TX	$20.00
AVS of Minnesota In memory of our members Ted Reist and Charles Zondlo	15.00
Donna F. Mosher, Grove City, OH	10.00
Allen Foust, Orange, NJ	1.00
Central Jersey AVS, NJ In fond memory of Estelle Wallach	25.00
Delaware AVS, DE In lieu of travel expenses for Enid Branson and Susan Hanna, Philadelphia AVS	10.00
Delaware AVS, DE In lieu of travel expenses for Barbara Jones, Bettie Roth, Fran Cooper and Judi Criswell from the Springfield, PA, AVS	30.00
Delaware AVS, DE In lieu of travel expenses for Beryl Wood, Janet Haag and Sharon Toolan from Maryland	10.00
Triangle AVS, Apex, NC We do appreciate all the great work the AVSA does to support our fun hobby	20.00
AVS of Lower Bucks County, Levittown, PA In lieu of travel expenses for Penny Wezel, Morris Co. AVS, Laura Shannon, Phila. AVS, Carol Burrell, Hudson Highlands, AVS and Jan Murasko, Central Jersey AVS	20.00
Tiawan African Violet Club Chen Yung Tai, Chang Ling Ying, Kao Hsing, Chuang Ming Hsou, Lee Hsieng Nung, Liang Kuo Hsing and Hung Ching Hsiung	150.00
First AVS of Wichita Falls, TX In honor of Margie Harrell	10.00
Lyn C. Sweeney, Rancho Santa Fe, CA	100.00
Booster Fund Promotion Table, Atlanta, GA THANKS...Homer & Helen Blanton, St. Charles, MO;Reg & Dorothy Townsend, Australia, Earle Sheaffer,Willingboro, NJ; Kazuo Horikoski, Japan; Marion Allen,Levittown, PA; Penny Wezel, Annadale, NJ; Ron Ennis, Neptune, NJ; Annamarie Mays, Alexandria, VA; Kay & Bill Lyons, Levittown, PA	1,102.30
Total	**$1,523.30**

Shows & Judges

Bill Foster
3610 Gray Dr.
Mesquite, TX 75150

Those of us attending the Golden Anniversary Convention in Atlanta certainly know what the rest of you missed! Just knowing it was our 50th convention made it very special. The hotel site, alone, would have made the trip worthwhile. The gardens at the hotel were a joy to walk through. There were all kinds of plants and flowers, koi ponds, footbridges, and plenty of seating for evening visitation. We had this in addition to all the glamour and excitement an AVSA Convention brings. Laura Walker, convention chair, and Kathy Spissman, show chair, all their committee people from the state of Georgia have our heartfelt thanks for a job well done. There is a way for those of you who were unable to attend in person to enjoy a bit of the "glitz". You can order the beautiful 50th anniversary pin, selected by Cindy Chatelain, or you can order the beautiful and informative 50th anniversary book compiled by Ruth Rumsey. Both are available from the AVSA office. We also need to thank all the exhibitors, judges, clerks, consultants, and awards committee for getting the work in the showroom finished in record time.

There was a lot of discussion going on at the Shows & Judges Committee meeting, the Teachers' Breakfast, and the Judges' Breakfast. I promised to share the happenings of these events with you. It seems that no convention is complete without some changes to the HANDBOOK! Let's get them out of the way first.

Page 48-Delete #5 under AVSA Convention Show Awards-Commercial Display Tables: The Board voted to eliminate this award when the supply of rosettes were exhausted and they are now exhausted.

Page 48-Under AVSA Convention Show Awards-publications: Change #1 to read; 1. a blue rosette and equal cash awards for each of the top four yearbooks; Delete #2, #3, and #4. Change #5 to #2. Delete #6. Change #7 to #3. Delete #8.

The rationale is that in this "computer age" so many of the yearbooks are so near perfect that it is very difficult to select a "best" and there are few entries in the newsletters and magazines category that it was felt that we could do away with the second place winners in the latter, add it to yearbooks, and award the top four equal amounts. At present that award is $50.

Page 75-Under QUALITY OF YEARBOOK change (5 points possible) to (10 points possible) insert 5 creativity, distinction, and originality at the bottom, change the subtotal line to read (10 points maximum) rather than (5 points maximum) and change the section total to read (30 points maximum) rather than (25 points maximum)

Page 75-After the first PROGRAM change (40 points possible) to (35 points possible)

Page 76-Delete the entire section starting with EXTRA PROGRAM POINTS (5 possible) through (40 points maximum)

Page 89-Under MASTER JUDGE add this sentence to the paragraph; Master judges certificates will be issued automatically to senior judges who meet the requirements.

Page 89-Delete PROCEDURES and the paragraph below it. (since this is now automatic, procedures will no longer be needed)

Page 90-Under RULES FOR AVSA AFFILIATE SPONSORED JUDGING SCHOOLS, in item c. change $25 registration fee to $15 registration fee. (This is effective 1/1/97)

Page 91-Under JUDGING SCHOOL PROCEDURES FOR TEACHERS change #1 to read; 1. Upon receiving a request to teach a judging school, the teacher shall submit, at least four weeks before the date of the school, a request for a set of questions and answers to the AVSA Shows and Judges Committee member responsible for furnishing the exams. Exception: Teachers selected to teach at AVSA Conventions have the option of writing their own exams. If this option is chosen, exam must be approved by Shows and Judges Chairman) Delete on #2 (marked approved or with suggested changes noted) After deletion, #2 should read; 2. One copy shall be returned, along with a roster sheet and point-score forms, to the teacher within two weeks. Delete #3. Change #4 to #3 and change the word "submitted" to "requested" . It should now read; 3. A set of questions shall be requested for each school taught. Change #5 to #4; Change #6 to #5; Change #7 to #6; Change #8 to #7;

Change #9 to #8; Change #10 to #9: Change #11 to #10.

I explained why the rules were changed regarding the yearbooks. The reason for the change on master judges is that we have records that tell us which judges are eligible to become master judges and feel that the certificate should be issued automatically rather than requiring a request.

The reason for the change on judging schools is that it has finally been decided that a file of standard exams will be maintained. Rather than a teacher writing their own exams for each school they will request one. By doing it this way, everyone will be tested on the same material.

These changes are effective 1/1/97.

Let's move on to some of those questions and answers!

Q. *Can a seedling be Best-in-Show?*

A. Yes, if it is the highest scoring African violet in the show. However, if a seedling is being considered it should be judged again by the scale of points applicable to the plant had it been entered in regular classes. The scale of points for judging seedlings or new introductions is somewhat different than the scale of points for judging specimen plants.

Q. *In a show that has three panels of judges, with each panel given a certain number of classes, and told to select the plants to receive best-in-class awards, is it proper for the judges chairman to have the panels rejudge the other panel's assignments to see if they agree with what has been selected as best-in-class winners?*

A. ABSOLUTELY NOT! ! ! It would be very discourteous to do this and the judges chairman nor the show chairman has any authority to make such a request.

Q. *After judging a show recently, I returned to view the show, which was held in a mall. To my amazement, show plants had been sold and plants from the sales tables had been put in their places beside the ribbons awarded the show plants. Don't you think this is deceiving the public? Shouldn't the show plants remain in place until the show closes?*

A. The plants that were entered in the show should definitely remain in the show until the show closes. If the club allows exhibitors to sell show plants at all it should be spelled out in the schedule that even those plants sold must remain in the show until the show closes. If the exhibitors are more interested in selling than in showing, the plants should be placed on the sale tables rather than in the show.

Q. *Why is the Standard Show Award Sheet and the AVSA Collection point-score sheets kept secret? I would think the Affiliate or exhibitor would benefit from knowing where points were lost so they could improve.*

A. Rules state that the collection sheets and the SSA sheet be returned to the show chairman in a sealed envelope. However, this is really not done to be secretive. The purpose of the critique sheet, adopted a few years ago, is to summarize the SSA sheet. If properly filled out, this will give the same information to the Affiliate as the SSA sheet. Judges should give more thought when filling out the critique sheet. The collection sheets are picked up for a purpose. Often times an exhibitor will be clerking. Often, the gold and purple rosette winners are only fractions of points apart. Sometimes an exhibitor might see the sheet and feel that they have won when they haven't, thus causing a controversy among the members. Although these sheets are not put on public display at the shows, they are certainly not kept secret. If asked, the judges will discuss the SSA sheet with the show or judges chairman. The show chairman may request a copy of the SSA sheet from the Schedule Approver and a member may request the collection point-score sheet from THEIR collection. They will not be given collection sheets from other members.

Q. *In an interpretive flower arrangement can an entire crown, with roots cut off, be used?*

A. Rule #5 on page 66 of the HANDBOOK states that in interpretive flower arrangements African violet plants shall not be used intact. The blossoms and foliage shall be cut from the plant and arranged separately.

Q. *I entered a vintage plant with beautiful variegated foliage in our spring show. The blossoms drop easily on these older plants and the plant had a minimum amount of blossoms. The judges awarded a blue ribbon but chose a plant with very little variegation but more blossoms for the best variegated plant. Could we have a scale of points with more consideration for variegation?*

A. Refer to page 52 of the HANDBOOK concerning judging plants with variegated foliage. Judges should try to be familiar with as many varieties as possible. Amount of variegation is considered under "condition". A scale of points for variegated plants would merely split the points under "condition" and put them under "variegation" so it is doubtful that a new scale of points would accomplish anything.

Q. *Some members of our club would like to see the Container Gardens in a separate section because they are in competition with interpretive plant and flower arrangements and are so different in their make-up.*

A. This concern was addressed at the Shows & Judges Committee meeting and it was decided that such a change is not feasible at this time. The majority of exhibitors polled feel that it should remain as it is.

Q. *Our club recently had a practice show. A class that created a lot of interest was called "Violets in a Basket", Pot de fluer. African violets and other plants were used, remaining in their individual pots. Some members of our*

club have asked for a class in design for corsages. Is it possible to have a scale of points for these two categories?

A. At one time our schedules contained everything from strawberry jars to baskets, to corsages. Most were pleased when such classes were deleted. It is doubtful that a majority of the AVSA membership would wish to revert back to those times. However, a creative person could probably incorporate a corsage arrangement in a small niche.

Q. *We now feel the pendulum has swung the other way. Minis and Semis, which are easier and quicker to grow to perfection are pushing standards out of Best-in-Show. Could an Affiliate give Best-in-Show to a mini, semi, and a standard?*

A. In most Affiliate shows there is a best mini and best semi, and in many shows a best standard, best variegate, etc. is selected. However, if you just leave it at that, and not select an overall Best-in-Show from these categories, you will not be able to award a tricolor rosette because there will be no clearcut overall winner.

Q. *Under "quantity of bloom" when should the ratio rule be used instead of the 1/2 point per missing bloom?*

A. Page 53 of the HANDBOOK discusses "ratio". All this means is that the judges should decide, among themselves, how many blossoms a small standard should have to receive the full 25 points for "quantity of bloom". If the judges decide the plant should have 12 blossoms to receive the full 25 points and the plant only has 6 then half of the 25 points (12 1/2) should be deducted. I am unaware of any rule or guideline in the HANDBOOK stating that 1/2 point per missing blossom should be deducted.

Q. *We have a novice class in our shows. Novice class is not discussed in the HANDBOOK. Should this class be judged, not judged, or judged but not awarded our red, white, and blue ribbons? We feel that this class should be judged more leniently so as not to discourage new exhibitors.*

A. You may state "for display only" but the exhibitor will probably benefit more if the plants are judged. Most judges DO judge the novice class more leniently knowing that the exhibitors are inexperienced. Judges SHOULD spend more time writing comments on these exhibits in order to encourage the exhibitors to grow better plants.

Q. *What is a novice exhibitor?*

A. A novice is a new or inexperienced exhibitor. Some Affiliates define them differently. Some state that a novice is an exhibitor that has never won a blue ribbon. Some state that it is an exhibitor that has not won more than one or two blue ribbons. Judges should accept whatever the Affiliate has stated in their schedule. AVSA does not define "novice".

Q. *Has (or will) AVSA consider eliminating the size limitations on minis and semis, to allow the exhibitor to grow them to their full potential?*

A. There are no plans at this time to change the rules concerning the size of minis and semis. However, a few years back there were no plans for separating mini/semi collections and standard collections. AVSA usually considers changes when a clearcut majority of the membership wants changes.

Q. *Where should non-blooming aeschynanthus, nematanthus, and columneas be entered in a show.*

A. They shouldn't be entered! Normally, there are classes for Gesneriad in Bloom and Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Foliage. Unless a plant has ornamental foliage, and very few of the above mentioned do, they should not be entered unless they are blooming.

Q. *For classification purposes, should the hybridizers list or the MVL be followed in cases where they conflict?*

A. Hopefully, this doesn't happen too often. There could be cases when the hybridizers list could be used if an enror has been made on the MVL or if a change has been submitted. Usually, if the hybridizer had made a change it will appear in the Registrar's column or in a supplement to the MVL. Anytime the hybridizer makes a change in a description they should inform the Registrar of the change to eliminate any confusion.

Q. *Must a standard plant arrangement use a standard plant?*

A. Absolutely not! "Standard" in this case indicates the size of the arrangement and NOT the size of the plant used in the arrangement. The only way that a standard plant would have to be used is if the schedule so states! The schedule could also dictate that a semi-mini or minis be used in a standard arrangement.

This column is becoming long! More questions and comments will be discussed in the next column. Note: The list of judges is in this issue. If your name is left off, be sure you have renewed your certificate before complaining. We strive to have the list as current as possible but mistakes are made. If you are becoming a senior judge for the first time, we will not have that information in time for this issue. Another reason your name may not appear is in the event that you have failed to pay your membership dues. AVSA membership is a requirement of a judge!

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Registration Report

Iris Keating
149 Loretto Ct.
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs $1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00. Registration of the plant is $5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then $4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Barbara Goodsell - Glenview, IL

***BLUE LACE** (8431) 4/24/96 (Goodsell/J. Eyerdom) Semidouble medium blue sticktite frilled pansy/variable green band, thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated/red back. **Large**

*****

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA

***DRIFTING CLOUDS** (8432) 4/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble white sticktite ruffled star. Medium green, ovate. **Standard**

***GILDED PEACH** (8433) 4/24/96 (N. Johnston) Single-semidouble light pink sticktite large ruffled star/peach overlay. Variegated dark green and dark pink, pointed, quilted/red back. **Large**

***LAVENDER RUFFLES** (8434) 4/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble bright lavender large ruffled star/darker eye. Dark green, ovate/red back. **Standard**

***PAGODA PINK** (8435) 4/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble pink two-tone sticktite ruffled pansy/wide lighter band. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Standard**

***SONG OF LOVE** (8436) 4/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble bright pink sticktite large ruffled star. Black-green, wavy/red back. **Large**

***STORMY CLOUDS** (8437) 4/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble white sticktite ruffled star/dark rose-lavender eye, edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

******

Althea Major - Bedford, MA

***MAJOR** (8438) 5/4/96 (A. Major) Double dark blue sticktite large. Dark green, plain, glossy. **Standard**

******

Peba House Plants - Krugersdorp, South Africa

***GAUTENG ALMA** (8439) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy/white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, ruffled, scalloped. **Standard**

***GAUTENG DENISE** (8440) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble dark red pansy. Light green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

***GAUTENG GERDA** (8441) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble light pink pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***GAUTENG LISENKA** (8442) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble lilac pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, ruffled, scalloped. **Standard**

***GAUTENG LIZZY** (8443) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble white pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

***GAUTENG MARGA** (8444) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***GAUTENG MONIQUE** (8445) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble medium purple pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

***GAUTENG NATALIE** (8446) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble medium lavender-blue star. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

***GAUTENG NICOLE** (8447) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble bright pink star. Light green, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***GAUTENG SASKIA** (8448) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**

***GAUTENG SYBILLE** (8449) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble pink pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

***GAUTENG VANESSA** (8450) 5/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble lavender-blue pansy/white edge. Dark green, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*****

Ralph Robinson - Naples, NY

***ROB'S ANTIQUE ROSE** (8451) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble silver-rose sticktite frilled pansy/darker shading, some silver-green tips. Dark green, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S BUNNY WABBIT** (8452) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/thin pink edge. Crown variegated medium green, white and light yellow, pointed. **Miniature**

***ROB'S HALLUCINATION** (8453) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark blue sticktite star/bright pink fantasy. Crown variegated dark green, gold and tan, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S HAND PUPPET** (8454) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble chimera pink sticktite pansy/medium blue stripe. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S HOT FOOT** (8455) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Double dark burgundy red sticktite frilled. Dark green, pebbled, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S HUMPTY DOO** (8456) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/wide bright blue edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy. **Semiminiature trailer**

***ROB'S MIRIWINNI** (8457) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Single chimera pink pansy/blue stripe, fantasy. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature trailer**

***ROB'S NEAT NELLIE** (8458) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite/pink-red eye. Variegated medium green and white, quilted, glossy. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S PURPLE SLURPLE** (8459) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Double dark orchid-purple sticktite. Dark green, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S RAGAMUFFIN** (8460) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Single lavender-pink star/ dark yellow overlay, blue fantasy. Variegated dark green, white and pink, pointed, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S RUFF STUFF** (8461) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Double dark pink sticktite pansy/blue fantasy, green frilled edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S SARSPARILLA** (8462) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble copper-pink sticktite pansy/red-brown frilled edge, some green. Dark green, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S THINGAMAJIG** (8463) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble chimera pink sticktite pansy/blue stripe. Variegated dark green and white, pointed. **Miniature**

***ROB'S TIPPY TOE** (8464) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Double white sticktite/blue edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Miniature**

***ROB'S ZIPPITY DOO** (8465) 5/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark rose-pink sticktite/dark ruby-red overlay. Mosaic variegated medium green and gold, pointed. **Miniature**

From Fantasy to Love Affair

by Barbara Matthews
Tampa, FL

Bedecked in an array of flowers and glistening with the raindrops of tropical showers, La Florida smiles upon her most ardent admirers: those who are enamored of the waters at her feet.

Surrounded on three sides by water, criss-crossed with myriad lakes, rivers and streams, dotted with natural springs, Florida's waters are a natural wonderland that soothe, entertain and rejuvenate the minds and souls of those who live here, and those who visit.

You can swim in it, or para-sail over it. You can ride on it or drive over it. You can feast on its bounty or enjoy the antics of the ever-present shore birds. You may catch a glimpse of dolphins at play or marvel at the tiny marine life along the shore. You can admire the beauty of the sea oats (but please don't pick them; they are protected). You can splash along the wet sand and retrieve watery treasures when the tide retreats or watch awe-inspiring sunsets each evening.

You're coming to an island in 1997. This 8 1/2 square mile island is connected to the mainland by several bridges. From the peak of a roadway, enjoy the view of vast expanses of sparkling water, ships, pelicans, and distant skylines.

Florida waters support freshwater, brackish, and saltwater marine life, as well as thousands of shore birds, migrating flocks, and regular winter visitors. Shorelines are dotted by mangroves which support the tiniest members of the eco-systems, lovely sea oats which protect the sand dunes from erosion, and stands of stately cypress whose knobby knees are much sought after by woodworkers.

The Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, located on Indian Rocks Beach and open to the public, rescues injured birds who are treated and then released back into the wild after recovery.

One of the three specialized marine hospitals in the state is located at Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa. Injured manatees are cared for here and the zoo also has a natural habitat setting for manatees. These gentle seacows have long inhabited Florida bays and rivers and now have become endangered, their numbers diminishing. Great efforts are being made to protect them.

Wakulla Springs State Park, listed on the national register of historic places, is home to one of the world's largest freshwater springs. Glassbottom boat and riverboat tours are featured. Silver Springs, a classic Florida attraction and the site where the original "Tarzan" movies were filmed, also provides visitors with glassbottom boat tours through the 250 acre park.

Visitors to Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park walk underwater to view manatees, and boat tours are also available. Tarpon Springs is famous for its sponges and the frigid, spring-fed bayou into which Greek youths dive to retrieve a cross at the Annual Epiphany Celebration.

To uniquely experience our water wonderland, visit the Florida Aquarium in Tampa. More than 4,300 animals and plants, representing 550 native species are displayed in aquatic habitats separated into four galleries that represent wetlands, bays and beaches, coral reefs, and Florida offshore. Recorded tours are available.

Come to St. Pete Beach early or stay late. Enjoy all that the convention has to offer. And at the end of each day, let the soothing sounds of the gentle Gulf waters lull you to sleep. You may find that falling in love with Florida is more than just a fantasy.

"American" violets seen through African Eyes

by Deon du Toit & Andre Möhlen
Peba House Plants
P.O. Box 572
Krugersdorp, 1740 South Africa

It was with great anticipation we undertook our very first trip to the USA to attend our first African violet convention in Atlanta. Being commercial growers in South Africa, we were not really sure what to expect, what the people would be like, what the country would look like, and last but not least, what the African violets would look like. Boy! Were we pleasantly surprised! Everything surpassed our wildest expectations.

Center of Hothouse No. 1
Peba House Plants, South Africa

First of all a hearty word of congratulations to everyone involved in the organizing of this mammoth event. We had no idea what kind of attendance to expect, leave alone the enthusiasm and sincere interest that people have in these humble little plants from Africa. To see what distances people from all shapes, sizes and different backgrounds would travel from all across the country (and in our case, halfway across the globe) to share a common interest, and the organizing that went into this superb event is a truly astonishing feat. A feat well accomplished, might I add! WELL DONE FOLKS!

As far as the violets are concerned, we were quite surprised to see the obvious big demand for variety that exists in your country, and the time and effort being put in by the members to increase and better the already vast amount of existing varieties. The reason why this was very apparent to us is because, as I've mentioned before, we are commercial growers in South Africa and a large percentage of the cuttings that we export is destined for the European market. Their preferences and requirements seem to be very different than yours, as they favor plants that are characterized by strength and simplicity rather than appearance and uniqueness. To give you an example - they would prefer a plain pink or blue that is very strong, will flower for a long time, and has a very high transport and temperature fluctuation tolerance, rather than a very pretty bicolor that one can't buy in the shop next door. A lot of plants that we export are used for mixed arrangements, sometimes presented in a single bowl, as our calenders that were distributed at the convention, demonstrate. The result

5000 square meters of violets
Peba House Plants, South Africa

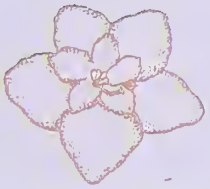
Peba House Plants "Mixed Bowl"

is that one ends up with very strong single varieties.

Some of these varieties have been tested at the research station for Floriculture in Aalsmeer, Holland. One of the aims of this establishment is to determine the growth and quality characteristics of plants. One of the problems of marketing African violets commercially is its sensitivity to transport and infections. On the basis of this a test method has been developed on global lines to determine and single out the strongest varieties. This basically entails receiving plants from different growers. When these plants have approximately 10 flowers, they are put under enormous strain by being subjected to vigorous conditions such as storage at a temperature of 11° C (50° F) in total darkness at a relative humidity of 85 - 95% for two weeks. After that they are placed in a normal room environment and after a few weeks they are judged by an examination panel which results in a fairly accurate rating of strength and durability. It is remarkable that the "prettyness" of the plant never even comes into consideration.

Seeing that we also export to the USA and Canada, we thought it a good idea to go and see first hand what the market requirements and demands are and it would appear that there are very definite differences in comparison to the European market. In general, Americans seem to go for the prettier varieties, usually bicolors of different sizes. We are definitely looking at extending and expanding that side of our business, which is why we are interested in being a part of AVSA - so, if there are any commercial members out there with strong bicolors that are commercially viable, we would love to hear from you.

Last but not least, we would like to thank everyone at the convention who made us feel so welcome and at home and listened and helped us with all our questions - Ruth Rumsey, Cindy Chatelain, Lynn Lombard, Iris Keating, the Tinaris, and Hortense Pittman, to name but a few. Thank you very much for making our visit such a pleasant and informative one. We look back with fond memories on our stay in your beautiful country.



Commercial Winners
Atlanta Convention

by Meredith Hall
Houston, TX

Due to the unusual weather this past year, many of the exhibits in the convention were not to their usual point of perfection. However, the show was beautiful and enjoyed by all.

We missed seeing display tables exhibited by some of our long time favorites but were happy to see new exhibitors in this division.

Rob's Mini-O-Lets

Ralph Robinson's exhibit took Best Display Table with 45 mini and semimini plants. Everyone wants to know how he grows such small plants with so much bloom. The best new introduction, a beautiful chimera, was found on this table. Rob's Blueberry Patches has light silver-blue with white pinwheel stripes over heavily variegated Champion foliage. Rob's Antique Rose was second best. The name speaks for itself, a solid mass of tiny rose blossoms atop perfect green foliage. Rob had the best display of semimini trailers I have ever seen. Rob's Gundaroo had a mass of beautiful medium baby blue double blossoms over green foliage. Also shown was a new introduction, Rob's Jindalee, another heavy blooming trailer of double blue blooms, often mottled white with tips. There was also a group of last year's winners, including Rob's Perfect Peach and several other outstanding trailers.

Kent's Flowers

This table was judged Second Best with fifteen of **Kent Stork's** beautiful plants. Many of them were new introductions you will want to add to your collection. The best plant on the display tables was a new introduction, Annabello, having dark green foliage and pink, two-toned blossoms with bright pink lobes. Another new one is Luxury Liner with variegated pink and green foliage. The blossoms are wine-edged with darker tips and edged with white. (I think this name came from the Stork's trip to Hawaii.) Maybe Silent Prayer also emerged from that trip. It has beautiful green foliage with huge lavender ruffled blossoms and a darker edge. Graffite, a beautiful fantasy, and Everything Rosy, with dark rose blossoms, certainly can't be overlooked.

The Violet Showcase

Shannon Ahlman, a new exhibitor from Grand Island, NE, won Third Best display table on his first effort. He had beautiful exhibits of many of our favorites. The best plant on his table was an old favorite, Picasso. He showed a new introduction of Kent's called Wintery Welcome Home, a great variegated foliage of pink, green, and white, with semidouble white blossoms with soft blush pink and green. Sparks Fly is a fantasy of deep fuchsia with purple over variegated foliage. Also there were Mindi Rose, Martzie, Fredette's Moonflower, Windy Day, and Raspberry Crisp.

Midland Violets

Jean Ness again gave us a beautiful display taking an Honorable Mention slot. Best plant on her table was Ness' Moonlight Fantasy, purple and pink blossoms over nice green foliage. We saw ten standards and five groups of semiminis. One of her new introductions is Ness' Starburst, a standard with large gorgeous fuchsia red stars with irregular white edging. Another new one is Ness' Bashful Blue, a semimini with blue pansy clusters with a deeper blue eye standing above dark green, heart-shaped foliage. Ness' Little Echo is a mini with wavy white semidouble bells over Tommie Lou variegated foliage. Also watch for Ness' Pink Confetti and Feather Pink.

Mini Mansion

Another new exhibitor, **Hector Becerra**, of San Antonio, Texas, presented a display of 45 minis and semiminis. Most of his exhibits consisted of Dean's hybrids. The late Mr. Dean was from San Antonio and the line is being continued by his wife and daughter. The best plant on the table was Dean's baby Opal, variegated foliage with red blossoms. The third best new introduction, Dean's Sonata, was found on this table and has beautiful variegated foliage with two-tone blue blossoms. Another new one is Dean' Ivory Lace, variegated foliage with white and cream blossoms. Many of us remember Dean's Aquarius with sky blue blossoms over variegated foliage. There were several other Dean's plants you should be sure and check out.

ACA's Violet Tree

John and Doris Brownlie from Canada had a very good exhibit of fifteen beautiful standards. The best plant

on this table was Decelles Defi. I don't remember having seen this plant before but it was a beauty. Beautiful variegated foliage with a nosegay of blue/pink fantasy blossoms. Rainbow's Quiet Riot has green foliage with a blue and white fantasy blossom. ACA's Canadian Wonder has variegated foliage and pink blossoms with a white edge. Santa Anita has green foliage and huge pink blossoms. We really appreciate the Brownlie's coming such a long way to give us the opportunity to see their beautiful violets.

We also had two tables that were for display only. One was **Holtkamp's**, showing us many of their very new varieties. Everyone was excited to see some of the space babies.

Sunnyside Green Houses wanted to give us a taste of what we will be seeing in 1998 when the convention returns to California. Be prepared to see some real beauties.

Specimen plant section

This year the specimen plant section was really beautiful. Usually this is a very small section in the convention show but since **Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses**, **Hortense's African Violets**, and **Travis' Violets** all entered, we really saw a nice variety of exhibits.

Sidney Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses won the semimini AVSA gold rosette with Rob's Red Rooster, Rob's Boondoggle, and Rob's Fuddy Duddy, the best Holtkamp collection with Optimara Blue Topaz, Optimara Little Rose Quartz, and Optimara Little Moonstone; the best plant in commercial specimen section with Rob's Fuddy Duddy, best mini, green foliage, with Cookie Man, best variegated semimini with Lyon's June Bug, best semimini, green foliage, with Persian Lace, and the best gesneriad with Aeschynanthus "speciosa".

Travis Davis of Travis' Violets won the AVSA gold rosette for standard plants with Country Moonlight, Peach Puff, and Pink Crystal. Also best standard variegated foliage with Georgia Lover.

Shirley Sanders of Shirley's House of Violets won the AVSA purple rosette for semiminis with Dean's Ivory Lace, Rob's Twinkle Pink, and Optimara Little Diamond, second best Holtkamp collection with Optimara Little Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Ruby, and Optimara Little Diamond.

Hortense Pittman had the best miniature with variegated foliage, Petite Blush. **Darlene Davis** of Travis Violets had the best standard, green foliage, with Pink Crystal, and **Jo Schrimsher** of Jo's Violets won best trailer with Rob's Lilli Pilli.

What is the Hudson Memorial Award For Affiliate Leadership?

by Linda L. Golubski
Awards Committee Chairman
1416 A. Street
Blue Springs, MO 66015
816-229-2051 after 6:00 PM (CDT)

That's a good question! Until two years ago, I didn't have a clue.

Is there a person in your affiliate who always answers the call to work as an officer or committee chairperson? This is the person the AVSA is looking for, to reward all their tireless, unthanked efforts. The AVSA is looking for someone in your local area. Please take the time to nominate that hard working person who skillfully and caringly leads your club.

If you would like further information on how to nominate that "special" person, please contact me by writing or phoning. I'd be happy to discuss it with you or send you the forms to make a formal nomination. The nomination should be made by your club secretary no later than October 1, 1996.

Showcase

Ivory Shadows

Hybridizer: ***Sidney Sorano***

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Ness' Starburst

Hybridizer: ***Don Ness***

Midland Violets

AVSA Judges, Affiliates & Commercial Members - 1996

AVSA Judges, [X]Senior Judges, [M]Master Judges, [S]Student Judges, [T]Teachers and [ME]Master Emeritus

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AFRICAN VIOLETS & MORE, Ruth Hickox, 20634 Marilyn Ln., Spring 77388
CAROL'S CREATIONS/EDS TROPICALS, Carol Todd, 5710 Braeswood Blvd., Houston 77096
HILL COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLETS, Ken Froboese, 32005 I.H. 10 West, Boerne 78006
HORTENSE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, Hortense Pittman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio 78233
JO'S VIOLETS, Jo Anne Schrimsher, 2205 College Drive, Victoria 77901
PLEASANT HILL AFRICAN VIOLETS, Mrs. Ruth Goeke, 4851 Pieper Rd., Brenham 77833
ROZELL ROSE NURSERY & VIOLET BOUTIQE, Carolyn Rozell, 12206 Hwy. 31 West, Tyler 75709
SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS, Shirley L. Sanders, 1034 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio 78221
SWIFTS', June Swift, P.O. Box 28012, Dallas 75228
TEAS NURSERY, Paul Downs, 4400 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire 77401
THE MINI MANSION, Hector Becerra Jr., 212 Briarcliff Dr., San Antonio 78213
VIOLETS 'N GIFTS, Helen Payne, 1506 Sugar Creek Blvd., Sugar Land 77478
VOLKMANN BROS GREENHOUSE, Walter Volkmann, 2714 Minert St., Dallas 75219

VIRGINIA

A & M, Annamarie Mays, 6212 Guilford Dr., Alexandria 22310
VIOLETS GAILORE, Gail Rakes, 3839 Whaleyville Blvd., Suffolk 23434

WASHINGTON

ALLANNAH'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, Alannah Regan, 3159 Hwy. 21 N., P.O. Box 2, Danville 99121
HENRYS PLANT FARM, 4522 132nd St. SE, Snohomish 98290
PACIFIC SLOPE NURSERIES, Vern L. Walker, 612 Halliday Rd., Centralia 98531

WISCONSIN

BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE, Marcia Belisle, P.O. Box 111, Radisson 54867
THE VIOLET EXPRESS, Mrs. Genola B. Cox, 1441 Everett Road, Eagle River 54521

Rob's Sticky Wicket

From 2nd Best AVSA Collection of Minis and Semis

1996 National Show

Exhibited by: ***Linda Lee***

Hybridizer: ***Ralph Robinson,*** *Rob's Mini-O-Lets*

Photo Credit: ***Daemon Baizan***

How my African Violets Survived the Perils of my New Home (Will Yours?)

by Susan W. Bliss
Brooklyn, NY

Home Sweet Home. You're probably comfortable and secure with raising African violets in your current location. But what happens if you move? Will you be able to follow your old routine of tending your plants? Will your violets flourish in your new surroundings? Maybe. Maybe not. Over the years, I've discovered how different household environments can impact your plants and the care you give them.

I first caught "African Violet Fever" in high school, and my parents' central Pennsylvania home proved an ideal setting for growing strong, healthy plants. Built in the early 1970's, their house was well-insulated, air-conditioned, and heated, allowing for fairly constant temperatures and humidity throughout the steamy summer and bitter winter months. A large bay window with an eastern exposure provided diffused sunlight for my plants all year.

Because I had consistent conditions to work with, I followed a set watering schedule for my violets: water on Wednesday and fertilize on Saturday. My violet collection prospered and expanded using this system. By the time I left for college, I had accumulated over 50 violets. Unfortunately, my mother, who was in charge of my collection during my absence, didn't share my enthusiasm for nurturing plants. Each time I came home to visit, more violets had curiously vanished — into the trash! My parents' house was violet-free by the time I graduated .

After college, I lived in a small, one-bedroom condominium in the Philadelphia suburbs. Lack of space, no light, and dry, forced-air heat made growing violets — or anything else — almost impossible. I was forced to put my favorite pursuit on hold.

Things changed for the better last summer, however, when I got married and moved into a large, sunny apartment in Brooklyn. The apartment seemed to be an excellent home for a new group of African violets. It had roomy windowsills and a western exposure gently shaded by trees — I was thrilled! Under these conditions, I thought I could simply follow my proven routine of watering twice a week. I soon discovered my assumption was incorrect.

My problems started as the summer heat set in. Unlike my parents' house, my brick, tudor-style apartment building was built in the 1920's. Insufficient insulation caused my flat to turn into a sauna. A combination of high humidity, sweltering temperatures, and over-watering turned my plants to mush. I found I couldn't follow a set watering schedule at all. Instead, I had to check the soil for moisture every couple of days. At one point, three weeks passed before I had to water!

I encountered a different dilemma during the winter when I first experienced the pitfalls of radiator heat. Originally, I thought the hot water from the radiator would increase humidity. Wrong. The heat cooked my violets instead. Much to my husband's dismay, I had to relocate my plants to the kitchen table to save them. Fortunately, I only suffered one fatality.

The kitchen table, which sits directly in front of a window, has been a wonderful growing space — not too hot, not too cold, not too sunny, not too shady. Because of the humidity, I've adjusted my schedule so I water and fertilize my violets just once a week. My new method has been working remarkably well and has rewarded me with sturdy leaves and lovely blossoms. Best of all, I no longer have to listen to my husband's playful jeers of "Plant Killer" and "Dr. Death." I feel more like Florence Nightingale!

If you move into a new home, monitor your African violets closely and be alert to any changes in their appearance. They'll let you know if they're unhappy—fast! If your plants look ill, consider all your variables: light, humidity, temperature, watering, and fertilizing. Rule each one out until you pinpoint your problem. Above all, don't get discouraged if it takes some time for your violets to look like blue-ribbon winners. Hang in there! If you were successful growing African violets before, you'll be successful again!

Boyce Edens Research Fund

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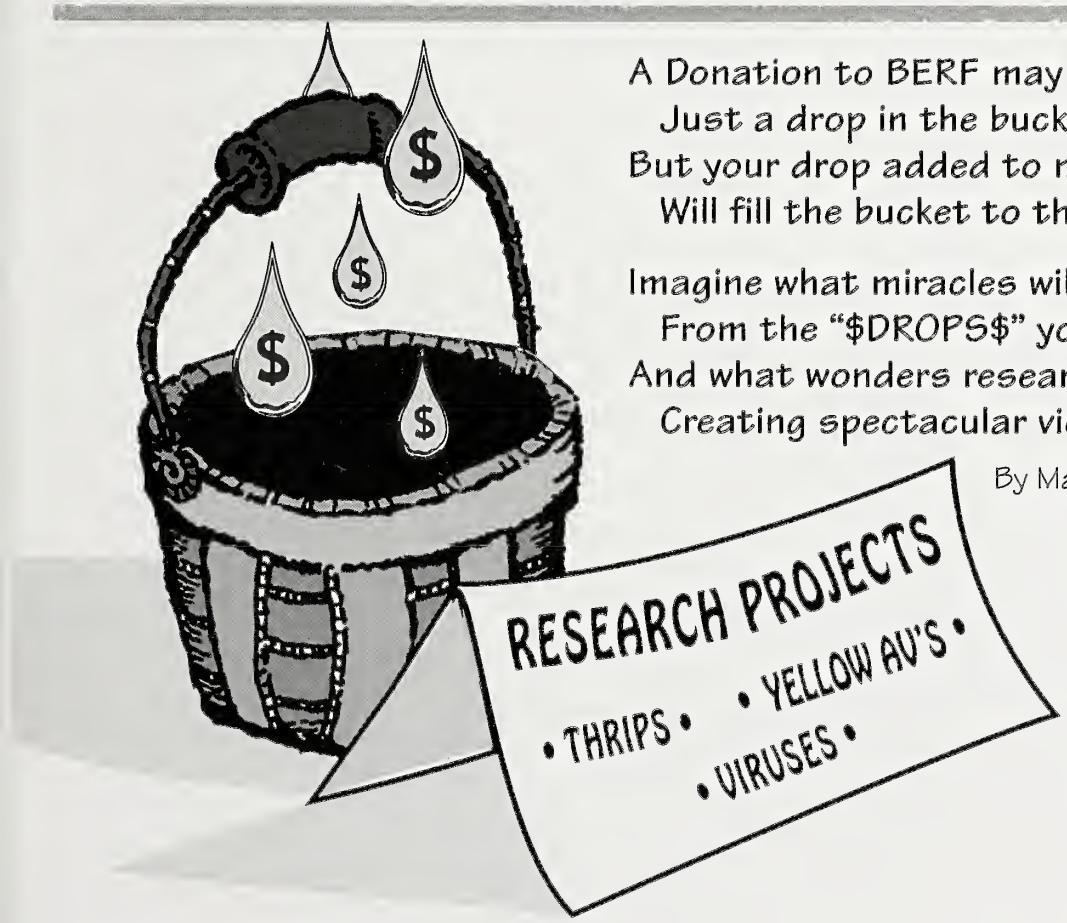

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Just a drop in the bucket, of course!!!
But your drop added to my drop
Will fill the bucket to the top!!!

Imagine what miracles will come your way
From the "$DROPS$" you put in the mail today
And what wonders research will be able to do
Creating spectacular violets for me and you

By Margaret Cass / BERF Vice-Chairman

Anything but THAT!

"I'll never have an African violet in my house!"

by Carolyn McAllen
Casper, WY

Famous last words, but that's what I told my violet-loving mother shortly before my wedding 36 years ago. Frankly, there are still times I wish I'd stuck to them.

First, let me explain that I grew up intensely jealous of my mother's plants. My only sibling is 9 years older than I, so I got my mother's almost undivided attention for years, especially since my father worked nights. We always rented rather than owning homes, so my mother did not work too hard at establishing a garden until she and my father finally bought a house. I was 18 and headed for college. I was self-centered, and it never occurred to me that my mother had free time once I started school.

Meanwhile, Mother became an accredited Life Master Flower Show Judge. Someone gave her a Blue Boy and a Blue Girl and the next thing you know she was an accredited African Violet Judge as well.

I guess my downfall really began when I won a blue ribbon for a violet I entered at the county fair, in the junior flower show. Yes, it was really my plant.

Although I did not realize it at the time, I was absorbing information about such things as mealy bugs, girl and boy foliage, even cross pollination.

After my marriage, somehow Mother always managed to sneak in another plant or two for me when she visited. Then she would always suggest a visit to a local greenhouse. My brother's wife also became an addict. I didn't have a fighting chance!

Then, when Mother died in 1975, I inherited her beloved three-tiered African violet light stand and transported it from Tennessee to Virginia in the back seat of my compact car. That really confirmed my dedication to violets. And dedication it had to be considering some of the experiences I've had. Either that or I'm just too stubborn to give up.

One of the problems was that my husband changed jobs about every three years. One time the movers came to pack us for a move from Virginia to Pennsylvania and said that it was against the law to transport plants across state lines in their van. But one packer said that if I were to pack them in boxes myself and label them "garden tools" the company would have no objection.

While in Pennsylvania I encountered a new problem. My violets were in the basement next to the furnace. There were plenty of buds, but they strangely disappeared without opening. One night I went into the basement after the violet lights were off. When I turned on the overhead light, I spotted a surprised chipmunk in the middle of the top shelf chomping away on his favorite snack!

During a trip to Georgia, my sister-in-law took me to a local greenhouse that specialized in violets. They were gorgeous and I couldn't resist. Unfortunately, they were all full of mealy bugs and I had not kept the new plants isolated.

My next encounter was with cyclamen mites which had arrived on a going-away present from co-workers. I tried the hot water immersion treatment but all I did was boil some of my plants. I lost most of them and I didn't trust the ones that were left, so I dumped them all and thoroughly sterilized everything before starting over.

About the same time I met a dear friend at church who had a basement with wall-to-wall light shelves. She never charged for plants, just gave them to friends. She invited me in to pick plants and leaves. Incidentally, when I left town, I received a parting gift of 50 leaves, individually bagged and identified.

This time I was headed from Virginia to Montana in

April. My son drove the rental van with my car towed behind. We had decided the violets would be safest from injury in my car, packed in boxes with newspaper for insulation. The flowers were blooming in Virginia and the weather was warm.

Everything was fine until we reached Minnesota, where it snowed, and continued snowing halfway across North Dakota. I kept hoping until we reached my daughter's house in Billings and I started unpacking the limp plants and leaves. There was not a single survivor!

I was almost ready to call it quits until the African violet club in Billings had their annual plant and leaf sale in a mall on Mother's Day. I couldn't resist. I moved to Wyoming before I could join the club in Billings; but lucky for me, there's an active one in Casper.

Moving west required a whole new set of violet rules. Mostly, I've learned the hard way. For instance, there is practically no humidity, so I keep a humidifier running close to my plant stand year-round. I also spray them with a fine mist daily; warm water so it doesn't damage the leaves.

In addition, I finally switched to wicking, after I wicked one plant which grew so much faster and healthier than my other plants. Wicking was something I once thought was too much bother and expense, but now I'm convinced. I use margarine and yogurt cups as reservoirs. This also discourages the two cats from strolling through the tiers licking up water.

Meanwhile, I'm also successfully cross-pollinating violets, another trick I learned from Mom. I have one third-generation plant whose seeds are now sprouting. I have another batch which are beginning to bloom for the first time.

The original plant stand, a gift to Mom from my father, continues to work well after it was rewired by a son-in-law. Maybe I can pass it on to my daughter or granddaughter. By the way, I'm planning to name that third-generation plant mentioned above (it has variegated foliage and pink blooms with a white ruffle) for my granddaughter. That's a sure way to trap her too!

Affiliate Club Show Themes

Times Gone By
Violets in Victorian Elegance
Heavenly Violets
The Gateway to Spring
Crusin' the 50's with Violets
Broadway in Bloom
Golden Jubilee - 50 Years of African Violet Shows
Violet Nostalgia
African Violets Go to School
Learning to Grow African Violets
A Select Garden of Violets
Pirates Love Violets
Dixie Goes Country
Broadway in Bloom
A Leprechaun's Vision of Violets
Violets Visit the Library
Violet Olympics
Wild About Violets
Shower of Violets
Olympic Violets, Go For the Gold
A World of Gesneriads
Hoppin' Down the Violet Trail
Galaxy of Violets
Violet Fantasy
Violets For All Occasions
Greatest Show on Earth
Violets in the Orient
A Violet For All Seasons
Satin and Lace
Rainbow of Violets
Violets by Moonglow
Violets in Fairy Tales
Dancing Violets
Violet Network
Celebrate With Violets
African Violet Safari
Around the Clock with African Violets
Violets Around the World
Violets Across America
Violets on the Move
Victorian Violets
Violets on Stage
Violets Welcome Easter
Violets on the Go
Violets on the Pacific Rim
Games, Comics and Violets
Much Ado About Violets
The Magic of Violets
A Fool For Violets
Violets in the Wild
Gateway to Adventure
Making Friends with Violets
Violets in the Northern Spring
Going to Show
Violets For All Ages
African Violets on Broadway
Art and Violets
Raining Violets
Fairy Tale Violets
Northwest Heritage
Violets on Vacation
A Journey to the Orient with Violets
Ballet of Violets
Celebrate the Day with Violets
Violets in Victorian Splendor
Fairy Tales
A Violet Premiere
Violet Sails in the Sunset
Reigning Violets
A Garden Party
Chariots of Violets
City of Violets
Violets on the Silver Screen
Melody of Violets
Once Upon a Time
African Violets for Mom
Down the Mississippi
"V" Is For Violets
Sweet Sensations
Great Northern Violet Expo
Violet Treasures
Violets With Antiques
Violets Go To The Circus
Showtime Violets
Precious Jewels
A Carousel of Violets
Violets of the Heartland
Violet Romance
Sing a Song of Violets
Golden Anniversary Party
Violet Happy Holiday
Violets Go To The Opera
Violets For All Seasons
Silver Jubilee
AVSA - Five Decades of Violets
Violet Fantasy
Violets: Gifts from Mother Nature
A Patchwork of Violets
Violets Through the Seasons

Design made Interesting

by Linda Golubski
Blue Springs

When you look at a design, what about it appeals to you? Is it the smooth lines, the color of the blossom or the texture of the plant that grabs your attention?

There are so many aspects of design to take into account – texture, line, color, dominance, scale, contrast, rhythm and...Where do you begin? I like to start with a simple sketch. Then I choose my base, which is very important. It should be simple (not covered with flowers or heavily designed) and the correct size. One common mistake is to have an oversized container.

Next, I like to choose the blossom or plant that I need. After that I can choose a background draping or some sort of colored cloth to put under my base. It should compliment the color of blossoms used, but not be dominant.

A good example of what **not** to do would be a small design using greenery, deep purple flowers and a "bright yellow" cloth under an off white base. Been there, did that, got a red ribbon!

If you should have a "smooth design" like a porcelain container, blossoms, and shiny, smooth greenery, consider using a heavily textured, but light in color, backdrop. It will add texture to your design without being dominant. Lastly, if you use accessories, be very careful. They should never be your focal point.

EXAMPLE: The design has a circus theme and you want to use a brightly colored clown in your design. Set up your design without the accessory, now place your clown in front of your design where it can be seen. Stand back, and look at your design. What do you see? Right, the clown! The clown shouldn't be dominant. Now take the accessory and place it in the back of the design, only partially visible. Now stand back and observe. Your violet blossoms are dominant, but the theme is carried out by just a small portion of the clown showing.

Learn from your mistakes and always try to take your designing to the next level, trying to improve. Always stand back and look at your design and see if everything is in it's proper place. A good friend once told me that, "If you think you need something else, take something out!" It works for me.

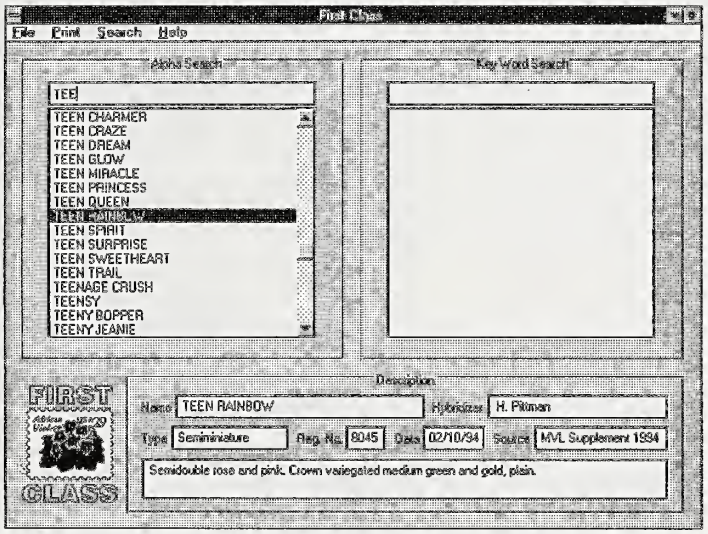
Come join us at the BEACH!

PACK YOUR BAGS! The Mid Atlantic AVS is having its sixth annual convention on the beach in Virginia Beach, VA, November 14-16. While it may be a little cool for swimming, a walk on the sand or the boardwalk is always relaxing. We are also planning a trip to Marine Science Museum you won't want to miss. If you enjoy history, plan to visit Williamsburg and Jamestown while you are here. For more information, contact Convention chairman Carol Van, 300 Brittain Lane, Hampton, VA 23669 or 757-851-2543.

A First Class Computer Program

The African Violet Society of America is now offering a new computer program which will allow you to quickly and accurately look up cultivar names and descriptions found in the *Master Variety List*. Originally designed to be used for classification at judged shows, you will find **First Class** to be an invaluable program for your own personal use.

First Class runs under Windows® 3.1 or later. It includes a *Master Variety List* database, which is updated six times a year and will be current as of the date of shipping. Updated databases will be made available to registered owners at a nominal cost.



The program is easy to install and easy to use. On the screen is a list of all *Master Variety List* cultivars. As quickly as you type the name of a cultivar, the list will scroll to the area where the name is located. Select the name, and the complete description is displayed, including a reference to the most recent source of information.

If you can't find a name, a key word search is available. You enter a word (or words or part of a word), and within seconds you will have a list of all cultivar names containing the key word(s). For example, if you search for "DALE" the list will include (among others) '*Dale*'s Dream', 'Lilac *Dale*', and 'Rob's Jin*dalee*'. You can also do a hybridizer search, where you will get a list of all of a hybridizer's cultivars.

As an added feature, you can print out any list, or you can choose any number of cultivar names and print the complete *Master Variety List* descriptions of those cultivars.

When doing classification at judged shows, **First Class** is the fastest and most accurate method you can use. Imagine—no searching through supplements! Since the database contains the most recent changes (e.g. miniature to semiminiature), you will be less likely to misclassify plants. The key word search will help you find the description when you have an incomplete cultivar name (e.g. 'Little Sioux', which should be '*Optimara* Little Sioux'). The program works very well without a mouse, so it's easy to use on a laptop or notebook computer.

You can order your copy of **First Class** from the AVSA office for $25.00, which includes shipping and handling. Updated database diskettes will be only $7.50 each, which also includes shipping and handling. You must be a registered owner of **First Class** to order the updated database.

For further information contact the Beaumont office

Variegation Tip

by Kyle Coleman
Ft. Worth, TX

For variegated African violets, more light promotes less green and deeper colors (pinks, purples, blues, and reds). Less light promotes more green and paler colors. For growers using fluorescent lights, here are some ways to adjust the amount of light that your violets receive.

- For more light, move plants closer to the tubes or away from the ends of the tubes.
- For less light, move plants farther from the tubes or closer to the ends of the tubes.
- If it has been one year or more since you changed tubes, replacing the tubes will provide more light. (To prevent shocking your plants, only change one tube per fixture at a time. Wait a couple of months to change the next one.)
- If your violets need just a little more light, consider leaving the lights on for an extra hour each day.
- If your violets need just a little less light, consider turning the lights off an hour early each day.

Remember: Too much or too little light is unhealthy! Don't "sunburn" your violets or expect them to grow in a cave.

I Grow for Pleasure

by Alec Brackin
Crystal River, FL

(top) Grandmother's Halo, (L) Lovely Diane, (Bottom) Majesty Blansit, (R) Flashy Lovetta
Photo Credit: Claudia Keiser

Novice growers, like myself, who grow African violets purely for the pleasure they bring, treasure our plants as much as the people who grow for show.

I became a member of the African Violet Society in 1978 and the first two plants I ordered were from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. Their names were "Spell Bound" and "Dyn-o-mite". Over the years, I have grown my plants under varied conditions. I have had nice blooming plants grown in an east window. When I acquired a metal stand with 24″ lights, they grew even better. For several years I had a large Floracart with 48″ lights. My plants were outstanding! One, a Tommie Lou, grew 16 - 18″ across for five years.

When we moved to a smaller house, I had to sell my stand, and now grow African violets on a stand made of PVC pipe. When I began using 24″ shop lights and two Gro Lux Wide Spectrum bulbs, my plants doubled in size in two months.

I use Volkmann reservoir wick pots and their constant feed fertilizer. I also use a teaspoon of Physan 20 to a gallon of water to reduce algae.

My potting soil comes from Alice Droge of Florals of Fredricks. I visit her greenhouse often and have also been to Travis' Violets. All of my plants come from these two AVSA commercial members.

I enjoy using my plants to decorate my home. I display them in silver bowls, brass containers, or decorative baskets. I also enjoy sharing my plants with my friends.

I'm happy to be a member of the African Violet Society, and read and re-read each issue of the AVM. I was so glad when we began receiving six issues a year and I like the larger magazine size. I also appreciate the AVSA office staff, they are always so pleasant and helpful, and I've easily reached our editor several times.

I'm not a professional grower, and I have no interest in entering my plants in a show, but I love to grow them and the pleasure they bring to me is endless.

"And the winners are..."

Al & Cathy Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Regretfully, this will be our last column. We enjoyed hearing about your shows and wish we could have seen them in person!

We want to thank Iris Keating, Ruth Rumsey, and Jane Rexilius for their help and advice. We also want to thank Hortense Pittman and L.T. Ozio for giving us the opportunity to serve AVSA.

Please mail all of your forms to Ruth Goeke, the new columnist—her address is listed below. We know that Ruth will do a great job!

Ruth Goeke
4851 Pieper Rd.
Brenham, Texas 77833

AV CLUB OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Louise Croteau, Ness' Shirley's Delight; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Snuggles Rising Star, Handmade; Best in Show: Raspberry Ripple; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Semiminiature: Snuggles Rising Star; Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sandra Skalski**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'janus'; Best Design, **Laurel Brown**. Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao**.

AVS OF CALGARY, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blackie Bryant, Wrangler's El Diablo, Misty Lady, **Florence Douglas**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Cactus Rose, Maggie Lee; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnergreen, Kid Karla, Precious Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* Holstii, **Gertrud Schneider**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Rob's Copper Cat, Rob's Silver Spook; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, **Evelyn Tse**. Best in Show: Mindi Brooke; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Ed Denesik. Best Miniature: Ballet Blue Ice, **Kathy Buckman**. Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Best Design, **Cynthia Salamanowicz**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, **Elizabeth Rousseau**.

AVS OF CANTON, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Candy Swirls, Powwow; Best in Show: Favorite Child, **Carolyn Copeland**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Granger's Wonderland, Scandal; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pearl Snyder**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boondoggle; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Muster**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'California Gold', **Eileen Lott**.

AVS OF GREATER MONTREAL, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Whippoorwill; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Whippoorwill; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Starlight; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Irene Henry**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Boondoggle, Little Katherine, **Greta Durand**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Nancy Johnston**. Best Design, **Anne Herbatuk**. Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Santopietro**.

AVS OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, PA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' White Bear, Ness' Bangle Blue, Ness' Shirley's Delight; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Firefly, Ness' Red Flash, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show: Ness' Bangle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Jupiter's Joy; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kay Lyons**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Emilie Savage, Tiger, Ness' Blue Velvet; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Flash, Ness' Sno Fun, Hondo Honey, **Bill Lyons**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Craig Reed**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie', **Florence Brems**. Best Design, **Joan Reed**. Design Sweepstakes, **Joyce McMullen**.

AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Royal Flair, Victorian Angel; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Handmade, Rob's April Storm, Ethel Twiford; Best Miniature: Little Prize, **Estelle Starr**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Big Charlie, Vintage Wine, **George Starr**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Trailer: Flashy Trail, **Jean Jones**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Treva McDaniel', **Kathy Thronson**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Katreen Childers**. Best Design, **Linda Lubé**. Design Sweepstakes, **Charline Sims**.

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA - Winners: 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Splendiferous, Favorite Child, Windy Day; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Betsy Branson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Everdina, Optimara Rose Quartz, Alan's Valley Girl; Best Miniature: Midget Lilian, **Rita Perzeproski**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wind Chimes, Irish Flirt, Rob's Denim Demon; Best in Show: Fredette's Moonflower; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, **Judith Smith**. Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka, **Marianne Gershon**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Raspberry Parfait', **Mary Grace Spilman**. Best Design, Margaret DePhillippo. Design Sweepstakes, **Marlene Buck**.

AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Robert Croteau, Lela Marie, Happy Cricket; Best in Show: Robert Croteau; Best Miniature: Red Bandito, **Doug Burdick**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Ness' Candy Pink, The Alps; Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis*; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Emily Roberts'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Wagman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Catch Me, Rob's Fiddlesticks, Rob's Perfect Peach; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddlesticks, **Ralph Robinson**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Diane Johanson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**.

AVS OF SOUTH BAY, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wine Country, Mama's Roses, Picasso; Best in Show: Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Toorooka, Dazzle Trail, **Patt Harris**. Best Miniature: Toy Castle, **Ruth Wasserman**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; **Celine Chase**. Best Design, **Caroline Pugh**. Design Sweepstakes, **Irene Thomas**.

AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Anastasia, Enchanted April, Jazzy Jewel, **Karen Dupre**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Catch Me, Rob's Fiddlesticks, Rob's Perfect Peach; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Perfect Peach; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, Ralph Robinson. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Twinkle Pink, Optimara Little Amethyst, Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Super Orange', **Donna Coleman**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Show Stopper; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ethel Champion**. Best Design, **Janet Fergerson**.

ALBUQUERQUE AV CLUB, NM - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Maui, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Raspberry Lace; Best Miniature:

Star Spangled Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jo Ellen Bowden**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Apple Blossom, **Louisa Sando**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Ice Maiden; Best Design, **Cal Iskra**. Design Sweepstakes, **Margaret Schmierer**.

BALTIMORE AV CLUB, MD - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Cricket, Mindi Morn, Something Special, **Rodney Barnett**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Medicine Man, Ness' Shirley's Delight, Picasso, **Toki Ridinger**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Gray Ghost; Best Design, **Gary Gordon**. Best in Show: Dark Bow; Best Miniature: Rochelle's Baby Colors; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Ulysses', **Marie Burns**. Best Semiminiature: Little Katherine; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Margaret Harcourt**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*, **Ken Barbi**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shirley Huffman**. Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Lou Lages**.

BAY STATE AVS, MA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grotei*, *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Bob Clark**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode To Beauty, Favorite Child, Tiger; Best in Show: Tiger, **Althea Major**. Best Semiminiature: Snuggles, Peg Eaton. Best Trailer: Happy Trails, **Nancy Manozzi**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams', **Ruth Warren**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Susan Gimblet**.

BERGEN COUNTY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Muffy, Suncoast Paisley Print, Powwow; Best in Show: Sybil, **Barbara Church**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue Boy, New York Glitter, Pink Blueberry; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Tourmaline; Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail; Best Design, **Debi Powell**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Florence Friedman**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, Lee Borey. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Happy Time', **Florence DiLiberti**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fred Hill**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Painted Sunrise, Powwow; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Moonstone, Optimara Little Amethyst, **Leona Faoro**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fire Mountain, High Tide, My Big Blue, **Ruby Schwarz**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Wood Trail; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Patsy Boddy**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis*, **Jeani Hatfield**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia cupreata* 'La Solidad', **Ruth Jo McCoy**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Oscar Faoro**.

CEN-TEX RAINBOW AVC, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathe Denise, Powwow, Vintage Wine; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lovely Linda, Berry Patch, Optimara Little Cheyenne; Best in Show: Vintage Wine; Best Semiminiature: Berry Patch; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Maxine Garlick**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Heliotrope, Irish Flirt, Winnergreen; Best Trailer: Trail Along; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, **Nancy Sneed**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Peppermint Brocade', **JoAnne Rogers**. Best Design, **Gloria DuBose**. Design Sweepstakes, **Kim Crawford**.

CINCINNATI AVS, KY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Prairie Fire, Tiger; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Whodunit, Cheers; Best in Show: Picasso, **Heather Herzner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun Popcorn, Apache Feathers, Lela Marie; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Grape Fizz, Ness' Firefly; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeannette Martin**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Marge Burson**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Paul Herzner**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Wichman**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Temiscaming', Paula Duncan.

CLASSIC CITY AVS, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Jubilee, Mindi Brooke, Red Ferrari; Best in Show: Apache Jubilee; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeanette Wallace**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sheer Peach, Rob's Boondoggle, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia cupreata* 'La Solidad', **Jean Wright**. Best Miniature: Rob's Bee Boopsie; Best Trailer: Candy Fountain, Barbara Thompson. Best Design, **Laura Walker**.

CLUB VIOLETTES LONGUEUIL, QC - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Desir, Ode To Beauty, Raspberry Reunion; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Firefly, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Silver Spook, **Renald Raiche**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sansoucy' Coco, Skagit Serenade, Powwow; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Michel Paradis**. Best in Show: Candy Sprinkles; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Silver; Best Design, **Denise Gagnon**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Outaouais', **Rene Martin**.

COPPER CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Patti, Rain Man, Fredette's Moonflower; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Mini Sota, Rob's Hopscotch; Best Trailer: Fancy Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Annabelle** and **Wilson Hart**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Harbor Blue, Wrangler's Jealous Heart; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Doodlebug, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Heebie Jeebie; Best in Show: Harbor Blue; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Robin Yager**. Best Miniature: Rob's Pal Paul; Best Design, **Annabelle Hart**. Design Sweepstakes, **Patricia Catter**.

DELAWARE AVS, DE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fantasy Frill, Rapid Transit, King's Treasure; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Be, Rob's Gray Ghost, Teen Sweetheart; Best in Show: Powwow; Best Semiminiature: Teen Sweetheart; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Libby Behnke**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Suncoast Paisley Print, Optimara Ohio; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Bessie Pyle**. Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Terry Celano**. Best Trailer: Santa Fe Trail, **Pat Webber**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Angie Celano**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnea hirta* ' Light Prince', **Andrea Pirone**.

DIXIE AVS, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Georgia Lover, Tomahawk, Optimara Harlequin, **Gail Borne**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cherry Glo, Rob's Vanilla Pink, Pink Dove; Best Miniature: Pink Dove, **John Nabors**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Seduction, Irish Flirt, Rob's Gray Ghost, **Ramona Hodges**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pride's Pink Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Peggy Adamson**. Best Semiminiature: Mac's Fabulous Firebird; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **George McDonald**. Best Design, **Jane Rexilius**.

EARLY BIRD VIOLET CLUB, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Crawdaddy, Phantom Flash, Ness' White Bear; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wooloomooloo, Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Wagga Wagga, **Jerri Whitlock**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Sugar Cube, Rob's Seduction; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Dresden Doll; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Michael', **Ramona W. Hodges**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, **Gwen Johnson**. Best Design, **Donna Henderson**.

FIRST AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Tamale, Ness' Satin Rose, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Perk Up; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Mary Walbrick**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Sunrise', **Allene Peek**. Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Joanie Sleeper** and **Mitzi Woods**.

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Sedona, Nortex's Snowfrill Haven; Best in Show: Lela Marie, **Irene Diver**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathe Denise, Ness' Viking Maiden, Fisherman's Paradise, **Jeannine Bruhl**. Best AVSA Mini Semi Collection: Hondo Honey, Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Aloha Rhodes**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milady, Snuggles, Pat Champagne; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne, **Jeanette Pursley**. Best Miniature: Peppermint Girl, **Billie Golla**. Best Trailer: Always Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Dolores Gibbs**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia xantha*, **Pat Freeman**. Best Design, **Susan Storey**.

FIRSTH ALIFAX AVS, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Molokai, Optimara Virginia, Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Best in Show: Optimara Molokai; Best Design: **Audrey Moir**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles Blushing Doll, Pat Champagne, Wee Be; Best Miniature: Bambino Mio, **Anne Brown**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Mars', **Shirley Turner**.

FIRST NIGHTERS OF DALLAS AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Picasso, Louise Constant; Best in Show: Party Print; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Martha Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Handmade, Pat Champagne, Sassy Shirley; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Design, **Mary Loewer**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Seduction, Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Green Jeans; Horticulture Sweepsakes, **Paula Foster**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Virginia Linson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Bill Foster**.

GARDEN STATE AV CLUB, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode To Beauty, Picasso, Ocean Eyes; Best in Show: Ode To Beauty, **Bill Lueschen**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Persian Lace, Pride Of Columbus, Shutter Bug; Best Trailer: Beacon Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* Hybrid; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Thurman**. Best Miniature: Rob's Romancer; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, **Betty Smith**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rhona Thurman**.

GREEN THUMB AVS, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Wrangler's Branding Time, Lela Marie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sugar Bear Blues, Candy Crystals, Ness' Red Flash; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Red Flash; Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Ruby Pope**. Best in Show: Picasso, **Margaret Condit**. Best Miniature: Rob's Voodoo Blue, **Candace Page**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'UnpredictableValley', **Dawn Sparks**.

HEART OF DIXIE AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiss Of Fire, Rodeo Showgirl, Rodeo Country; Best in Show: Kiss Of Fire; Best Trailer: Teen Trail, **Sherry Buie**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Peach Puff, Happy Cricket, Victorian Velvet; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Mighty Mouse'; Best Design, **Ruth Buie**. Best Semiminiature: Bogeyman; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Christie Thomley**. Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Sherry Buie** and **Christie Thomley**.

HEART OF JACKSONVILLE AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSAStandard Collection: Elizabeth, Mindi Brooke, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best in Show: Mindi Brooke; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Moonbeam, **Harue Grady**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Big Daddy, Granger's Pink Swan, Peach Puff; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Teen Sweetheart, Ness' Sno Fun; Best Semiminiature: Teen Sweetheart; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis*, **Lucy Wall**. Best Miniature: Petite Tart, **Debbie Dawson**. Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Bobbi Johannsen**. Design Sweepstakes, (tie) **Bobbi Johannsen** and **Judy Barnett**.

HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Strawberry Ripples, Kiwi Dazzler, Loads Of Lavender; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Silver Spook, Rob's Avis Winnie; Best Miniature: Think Twice; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jupiter's Joy, Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Sunspot; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sunspot; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **McAlpin/Schulz**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sailor Bill, **Peggy R. Payne**. Best Design, **Barbara Schuette**.

ILLINOIS AVS, INC., IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Winter's Haven, Apache Warbonnet, Suncoast Paisley Print; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Adelle Johnson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiwi Dazzler, Candy Swirls, Blushing Ivory, **Steve Covolo**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Optimara Little Cherokee, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Andrea Worrell**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Sno Fun, Little Pro, **Evalyn Barborik**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Linda Darnel, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Miniature: White Magic; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Tinkerbells', Libby Watkins. Best Semiminiature: Teen Rainbow, **Janice Bruns**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, **M. Simmons**. Best Design, **Anita Fiori**.

INDIANA STATE AVS, IN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powwow, Back In Time, Phantom Flash; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy F. Rose**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Snuggles Busy Bee, Midnight Rascal; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Semiminiature: Snuggles; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Michael Israel**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Definitely Darryl; Best Miniature: Shan, **Hazel Driscoll**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Libby Watkins**.

LAKESHORE AVS OF TORONTO, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melodie Kimi, ACA's Red Delight, Frosted Whisper; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Deano, Lakeshore Silver; Best Miniature: Pink Dove; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Moon Shadows'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverley Williams**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Anastasia, Red Lion, Pink Patti; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dazzle Trail, Milky Way Trail, Happy Trails; Best Trailer: Fun Trail, **Tony Hulleman**. Best in Show: Perhaps Love, **Bruno Curcuruto**. Best Semiminiature: Symphonette; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Betty Tapping**. Best Design, **Vivian Beeching**. Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

LATE BLOOMERS AV CLUB, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melissa Ann, Smokey Moon, Moonlight Waves, **Shirley Streit**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Flim Flam, Precious Pink; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Topmost; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Trailer: Gehr's Forget-Me-Not; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mable Lewis**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Carole Zimmerman**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Black Magic', **Pearl Timm**.

LONG ISLAND AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Feathers, Harbor Blue, Private Stock; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lois Szostak**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Paumanok, Makin' Romance; Best in Show: Makin' Romance; Best Trailer: Pixie Show-Off, **Marie Caruso**. Best Semiminiature: Pink Diamonds, **Jeanne Maier**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Pink Falls', **Helene Goldstein**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rosemary Macaluso**.

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Obsession, Mary Craig, Sheer Heaven, **Steve Spachek**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whodunit, Ness' Mini Sota, Rob's Match Point; Best Miniature: Persian Prince, **Hector Becerra, Jr**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pride of Columbus, Definitely Darryl, Taffy Joy; Best in Show: Alamo Sunshine; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hortense Pittman**. Best Semiminiature: Joy's Pink Halo, **Sandy Sanders**. Best Trailer: Ellie Gardner, **Alma Hummer**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*; Best Design, Dea Johnson. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Raindrop Peach Belle', **Ken Froboese**. Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Tracy**.

MASTER CITY AV & GESNERIAD SOCIETY, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Georgia Lover, Touch of Velvet, Red Ferrari; Best in Show: Georgia Lover, **Joan Cumpton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Ghost Dance, Maggie Lee, **Jim Wright**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Boondoggle, Ness' Sheer Peach; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Jean Wright. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Macho Devil; Best Trailer: Santa Fe Trail, **Lois Duvall**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Royal Robe', **Stephanie Miles**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Angelika Bondar**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Optimara Rocky Mountain, Kathe Denise; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ann Shirley**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Lyon's Blue Monday, Snow Squall, **Judy Ellis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ethel Twiford, Heritage Frolic, Rob's Avis Winnie, **Brenda Brasfield**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Ness' Twinkle Pink, Teen Surprise, Rob's Silver Spook; Best in Show: Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Pearl; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*; Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, **Lee Smith**. Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**.

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lady Blue, Merry Marilyn, Ashley; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marilyn Evensen**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blushing Ivory, Ness' Candy Pink, East Wind, **Sandra Helfrich**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Mary Ann Switzer**. Best Miniature: Persian Prince; Best Design, **Fran Russom**. Best Trailer: Beacon Trail, **Carolyn Burr**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Michelle', **Vera Eaklor**. Design Sweepstakes, **Helen Blanton**.

MOBY DICK AVC, RI - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Frosty Belle, Rob's Silver Spook, Snuggles; Best Semiminiature: Snuggles; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Susan Gimblet**. Best in Show: Ness' Coral Sunset, **Cheri Reimels**. Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe, **Jim Gimblet**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Pegasus', **Ed McCann**.

MONCTONIAN AVS, CANADA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Rose, Silver Summit, Blue Illusion; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Cloud Nine, Rob's Hot Chocolate, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show: My Chinook; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eva Belliveau**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Shadow Magic, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Bonnie Murray**. Best Miniature: Punky; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Francine Cain**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearlifolia*, **Louise Hughes**.

MONTGOMERY AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Picotee Petticoat, Happy Cricket; Best in Show: Bertha; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Trailer: Pip Squeek, **Barbara Sanderson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Yasuyo, Granger's Desert Dawn; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Donna Ferguson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilli Pilli, Baby Brian, Beacon Trail; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose, **Peg Phythyon**. 2nd Best AVSAMini/Semi Collection: Rob's Green Jeans, Rob's Mountain Ash, Pat Champagne; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Mosley**.

MOONLIGHT AVS OF FORT WORTH, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia confusa*, *Saintpaulia pendula*, *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*, **Velma Lewis**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Rose, Bertha, Apache Dream; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Mural Fort**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Kid Karla, Teen Surprise, Pride Of Columbus; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Miniature: Peppermint Girl; Best Semiminiature: Teen Surprise, **Kyle Coleman**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis*, **Michael Kaprelian**. Best Design, **Diane Clark**.

NASA AREA AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Sensation, Mary Craig, Painted Sunrise; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Wee Be, Dean's Bunny Blue; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Rob's Cherry Soda; Best Semiminiature: Lipstick n' Lace; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Verna Lawrence**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Diamond, Kathe Denise, Apache Holiday, **Margie Geissler**. Best Trailer: Santa Fe Trail, **Pat Tolar**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Joker'; Design Sweepstakes, **Onalee McEwen**.

NAUGATONIC AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Mary Alice, Gail; Best in Show: Marie Lorraine, **Don Goodwin**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snowy Trail, Ramblin' Stardust, Happy Trails; Best Trailer: Snowy Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Yellow Bird'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Apatite, **Julie Prokop**.

NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS AVS, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Marshlands, Lela Marie; Best in Show: Phantom Flash; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sugar Cube, **Alice Brown**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rain Man, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Favorite Child; Best AVS Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sugar Cube, Dancing Teen, Precious Pink; Best Design, **Glenda Robertson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Happy Trails, Rob's Sticky Wicket, Sundown Trail; Best Trailer: Sunrise Waltz; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Raspberry Truffles', **Donna Howell**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Martha Walker**.

NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melodie Maki, The Alps, Rosie Ruffles; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Ness' Satin Rose, Precious Pink; Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Ruth Bann**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Persian Lace, Rob's Shadow Magic, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show: Rosie Ruffles; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Barbara Werness**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Spots, **Sandy Officer**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Early Bird', **Retha Johnson**.

OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia intermedia*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*, *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best in Show: Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Mad Cat; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Gesneriad: Columnea 'Mary Ann'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kevin Degner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Optimara Manitoba 11, Spatter, **Betsy Fox**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Cream Pie, **William Grider**.

PAUMANOK AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Melanie, Lela Marie, Suncoast Paisley Print; Best in Show: Bud's Melanie; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* lite; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jane Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Powwow, Lela Marie, **Melanie Rodenburgh**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Flash. Rob's Gray Ghost, Bud's Happy Bride; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Sioux; Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper, **Bud Weber**. Best Design, **Tina Pigart**. Design Sweepstakes, **Millie Koester**.

PIKES PEAK AVS, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Royal Flair, Apache Diamond, Lady Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sundown Trail, Lyon's Pinky Wink, Rob's Boolaroo; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Sundown Trail; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, Bev Promersberger. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, **Cynthia Crater**. Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, **Maxine Grossman**.

QUAD CITIES AVS, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Suncoast Paisley Print, Ode To Beauty; Best in Show: Optimara Keepsake; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Happy Trails; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Celia Schafer**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Illinois, Redland's Pride, Optimara Molokai; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Twinkle Pink, Jupiter's Joy, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alma Lavine**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Monkeyshines, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Ness' Mini Sota, **Marlene Engebretson**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Carol Boyd**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones**.

RENO/SPARKS AVS, NV - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ocean Eyes, Picasso, Suncoast Paisley Print; Best in Show: Vintage Wine; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lori Marhanka**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ocean Eyes, Apache Blanket, Picotee Petticoat; Best Design, **Carol Mark**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby Sport, **Kathy Young**. Best Semiminiature: Little Katherine; Best Trailer: Happy Trails; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'White Nymph', **Diana Thran**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jann Selleck**.

RICHMOND AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Silver Surf, Illini Peace, Optimara Ontario, **Dave Hudson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Desert Dawn, Harbor Blue, Designer Dress; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, Sundown Trail, Dazzle Trail; Best Miniature: Dean's Ivory Lace; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Trailer: Dazzle Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alice Grundy**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Monkeyshines, Magic Blue, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* white *ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx cordatus*, **Barbara Peterson**. Best in Show: Pink Patti, **David Dick**. Design Sweepstakes, **Kitty Hedgepeth**.

SHO-ME AV CLUB, MO - Winners: Best in Show: Red Pinwheel, **Rick Milligan**. Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Norma Weir**. Best Trailer: Trail Along; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Doris Brown**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus', **Mary Ann Bjorgarrd**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Beth Medlock**.

SILVERMINE AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Bangle Blue, Melodie Kimi, Windy Day; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Firefly, Magic Blue; Best in Show: Ness' Bangle Blue, **Sylvia Siegal**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day. Coral Glo, Optimara Oregon; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jean Simons**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Flash, Little Pro,

Rob's Taffy Pull; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Red Flash; Best Trailer: Falling Snow: Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Wallach**.

SOCIETE DES SAINTPAULIA DE MONTREAL, QC - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Brooke, Sapphire Halo, Powwow; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Shy Blue, Little Pro; Best in Show: Decelles' Triomphe; Best Miniature: Rob's Angelie; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean-Marc Pigeon**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Merci Beaucoup, Frosted Whisper, Smokey Moon; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Nicole Charbonneau**. Best Trailer: Happy Trails, **Amana Lemay**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis*, **Therese Gregoire**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Monique Pigeon**.

SPRINGFIELD AV CLUB, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Heavenly Notes, Jean-Pierre Croteau; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Firefly, Little Pro, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, **Kenneth Jones**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Raspberry Lace, Powwow; Best in Show: Powwow; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Raspberry Velvet'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Carr**. Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Bartley**.

SPRINGFIELD AVS, PA - Winners: Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dandy Lion; Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* hybrid; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Jones**. Best Design, **Martha Guthrie**. Design Sweepstakes, **Debbie Schaffer**.

SUNDOWNERS AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Lela Marie, Bertha; Best in Show: Bertha, **Lura Weathers**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hidden Beauty, Rodeo Country, Shades Of Autumn; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Mighty Mouse'; Best Design, **Mary McFarland**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Aquarius, Snuggles, Sassy Shirley, **Robert Truax**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Kid Karla, Snuggles; Best Semiminiature: Bogeyman; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Elmer Godeny**.

THE EVENING AV CLUB OF DES MOINES, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Cricket, Ocean Eyes, Pink Cameo, **Janet Purdom**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Satin Ruffles, Cinnamon Ruffles, French Lilac; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Party Lace, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boondoggle; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ken Wilkinson**. Best in Show: Alamo Bliss; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Judy Zegers**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Joan Watts**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Muriel Brill**.

THE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Moonflower, Party Print, Wrangler's Green Pastures; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Toodle Doo, Rob's Whodunit, Slow Dancin'; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Whodunit; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia leucotricha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Edward Bradford**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Doohickey, Rob's Pal Paul, Rob's Sno Blossom; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein** .

TIDEWATER AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ma Gigi, Victorian Parasol, Granger's Wonderland; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Handmade, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Rob's Mad Cat, **Rose Dudley**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Harbor Blue, Private Stock; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis var. minima*; Best *Gesneriad*: *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Pat Knight. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Design Sweepstakes, **Marie Mulroy**. Best Semiminiature: Tomboy Blue, **Irene Moore**. Best Design, **Celesta Cirkl**.

TUSTANA AVS & ORANGE COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Victory, Picasso, Tiger, **Kathleen Rapske**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: September Morn, Designer Dress, Ness' Forever Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gini McCanne**. Best in Show: Marshlands, **Leonard Re**. Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Rob's Wooloomooloo, **Darryl Hoover**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Susan Malley**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dee Probert**.

UNION COUNTY CHAPTER AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Colorado, Traces, Splendiferous; Best Design, **Marion Mossberg**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Twinkle Pink, Snuggles, Little Pro; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Optimara Little Sapphire, Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Muriel Lawrence**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Sapphire, **Walther Ott**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Helen O', **Marion Pecota**. Design Sweepstakes, **Christine Brenner**.

UNPREDICTABLE'S AVS, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Photo Finish, Phantom Flash, Nortex's Radiant Haven; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Allinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathe Denise, Optimara Ontario, Fantasy Maker; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's June Bug, Optimara Rose Quartz, Rob's Voodoo Blue; Best in Show: Optimara Ontario; Best Miniature: Rob's June Bug; Best Trailer: Tenny Bopper, **Sue I. Hill**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Shoshone, Rob's Double Whammy, Rob's Perfect Peach; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Colorado Red'; Design Sweepstakes, **Linda Golubski**. Best Semiminiature: Pink Pizazz, **Deanna Loeffler**. Best Design, **Mary Lou Wilson**.

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Picasso, Lady Baltimore, **Marcia Shaver**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Fluorite, Rob's Zero Gravity, Rob's Bee Boopsie, **Florence Naylor**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Baby Darryl; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Sandy Purins**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Barbara Nussear**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Hawaiian Jade', **Penny Harvey**. Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best Design, **Susan Alvarez**.

WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Dathyn, Ness' Midnight Fantasy, Ode To Beauty; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Candy Crystals, Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Karlyn'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Barrett**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Cleveland, Cinnamon Candy, Ness' Sizzlin' Pink, **Dick Cory**. Best Miniature: Rob's Vanilla Pink, **Bernice Sidebottom**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Mary Smith**. Best Design, **Beth Reisman**. Design Sweepstakes, **Faye Wieditz**.

Spare Cash

If you have any "spare cash" won't you consider donating an award for the 1997 AVSA Convention in St. Petersburg, FL? Donations may be for specific awards (if not previously specified - they're on a first come basis), specific varieties, or may be undesignated. Awards may be individual or affiliate. Quite frankly, I'll take anyone's money!

Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number and a contact name if donated by an affiliate. Those awards received by October 1, 1996 will be published in the January 1997 AVM.

Send to: Linda Golubski
Awards Comittee Chairman
1416 A. Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 after 6:00 PM (CDT)

MISS KITTY'S BLUES, TOO...

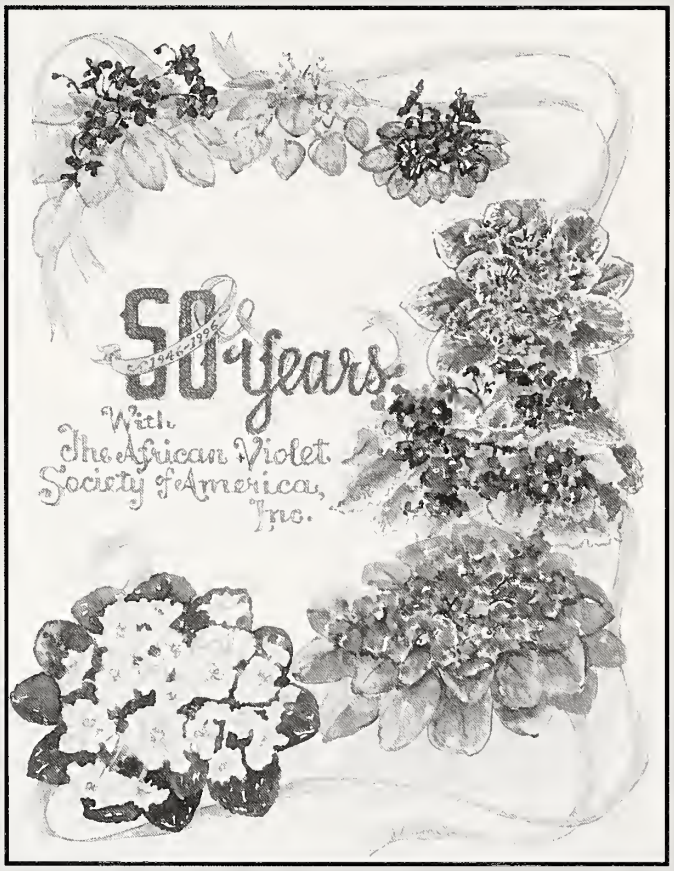
by **Kitty Hedgepeth**
Richmond, VA

My violets bloom with such abandon,
The blossoms full and hearty...
With rusty reds and shocking pinks
And fantasies dressed for a party.
I burst with pride when I look upon
The results of all my hours
Of foliar feeding and potting up
And disbudding the earliest flowers.
But lo and behold! A trail of pollen
Mars my blooming beauties.
"Oh no," I cry as I espy
This evidence of cooties!

Not thrips again! Or is it still?
Last time I thought I got 'em...
With disbudding and spraying
And drenching and praying
Enough to save or to rot 'em!
I've tented and vented,
I've permanently scented
My house with eau de Knox-Out!
Still the thrips reappear...
I'm beginning to fear
My methods are loosing their clout!"

And so with a sigh
And a tear in my eye
I consider the tedious hours...
I'd save every day,
My plants thrown away,
And growing just plastic flowers.

AVSA 50th Anniversary Book



- Over 100 beautiful color photographs of African violets
- Detailed history of AVSA's first 50 years with original photos and articles from each decade

Limited supply - will not be reprinted - $19.50 ppd

AVSA 50th Anniversary Pin

Exquisite Limited Edition
gold & white hard enamel

A valuable keepsake for every AVSA member

$10.00 ppd

In Memory

PEGGY RIOS

Peggy Rios of Springfield, PA passed away in early June, 1996. A co-founder of the Springfield AVS in 1948, Peggy remained active in the club throughout the years and was recently named Honorary Chairman for the year 1997. She was also a long-standing member of AVSA and AGGS, an African violet judge whose expertise was appreciated in shows throughout the country. Peggy was also instrumental in getting the African Violet Stamp issued by the US Post Office

HELEN SHORE

The Syracuse AVS was saddened by the recent death of long time member Helen Shore. Helen was a Past President, Show Chair, and Treasurer of the Syracuse AVS. She was also an active member of the New York City AVS and AVSA.

MARY JANE HOPPER

The Suncoast AVS lost a ray of sunshine with the passing of Charter Member, Mary Jane Hopper. Mary Jane was always an active and willing help with club projects. She also served as Sunshine Committee Chairwoman for many years.

LEWIS COOK

Lewis Cook, of Gainesville, NY, passed away in March, 1996. Lew was the last living charter member of the Livingston County and Vicinity AVS, was active in the formation of the New York State Society and a long time member of AVSA.

HATTIE LARSON

Hattie Larson, a member of the Capitol City AVS, Sacramento, CA, passed away in March, 1996. Hattie had been a member since the early 1970's and generously shared her knowledge and violets with members of the club and others.

Lizeta Hamilton

Hall of Fame Member, Deceased

It has recently been confirmed that Lizeta Hamilton of Hightstown, New Jersey, a member of the AVSA Hall of Fame, passed away on November 23, 1995 at the age of 93. She had been inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 1990 AVSA convention in Boston in recognition for her many years of outstanding service and her significant contributions to the Society.

Lizeta began writing articles for the *African Violet Magazine* in 1958, was Affiliate Chairman from 1964 to 1971, served as Secretary from 1975 to 1977, and was an active judge and judging school teacher for many years. In addition to the Hall of Fame, she received an Honorary One-Year membership in 1965 and a Continuing Service Award in 1975.

It was Lizeta's initial gift of $1,000 that inspired the Board of Directors to establish the Building Fund in 1986. She then offered to donate $10,000 if the Society could raise $20,000 by the 1988 convention in Dallas. Society members accomplished this feat and receipt of her check to the Society was announced to the Board of Directors by Nell-Sue Tyson, chairman of the fund. It was this wonderful start that resulted in the eventual purchase of our office "home" in Beaumont.

Although advancing years had curtailed Lizeta's activity in the Society, her fondness for violets continued. She still was enjoying several until just a few years ago and her enthusiasm for the Society and its success remained strong. Her support will be remembered by many.

Minutes

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Annual Meeting

May 25, 1996

The annual business meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was called to order by Third Vice President, Lynn Lombard, at 2:40 PM on May 25, 1996, in the Ravinia Ballroom II of the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia.

The invocation was given by Martha Dyson. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President L.T. Ozio, Jr. took the chair. The Secretary declared the presence of a quorum. The standing rules of the meeting were adopted. Christine Sanders, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, was presented.

Jackie Jones, member of the committee to approve the minutes of the 1995 meeting, reported that the minutes had been reviewed and approved.

Resolutions Chairman, Elinor Skelton, read the courtesy resolution and moved that it be adopted. A copy is attached to these minutes. The resolution was adopted.

Mary Boland, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, presented the report of the committee. This Bylaw amendment was published in the March issue of the AVM:

Article III, Membership and Dues, Section 2 d: Life Member -- An individual who shall upon payment of Life Membership dues shall be exempt from payment from paying annual dues. Adopted.

Iris Keating, Chairman of the 1995-96 Nominating Committee, presented the following nominations for director: Doris Brownlie, Alyce Droege, Doreen Lay, Pat Richards, Catherine Thompson. As there were no further nominations from the floor, these nominees were elected. President Ozio announced that the installation would take place at the banquet later in the evening.

Mary Lou Harden, 1997 Convention Chairman, invited all to attend the Society's 51st Convention at St. Pete Beach, Tradewinds Hotel, St. Petersburg, Florida, June 1-8, 1997.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Statement of Condition

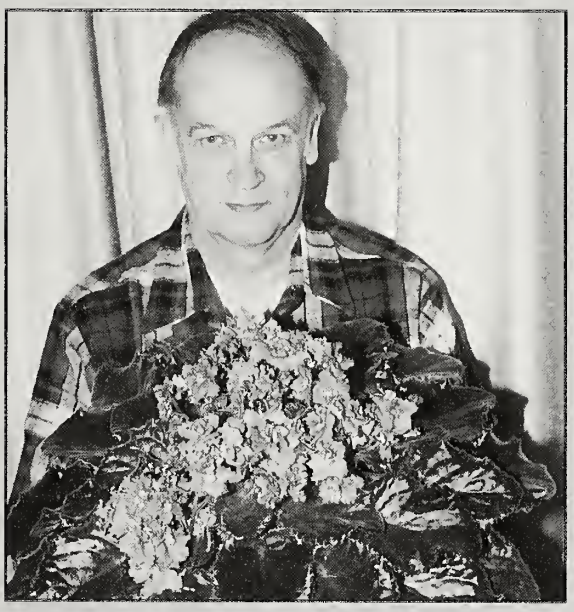
ASSETS		
Unrestricted Assets		
Cash and Equivalents	$ 97,582	
Due from restricted funds	19,996	
	117,578	
Property & Equipment	98,541	
Restricted Assets		
Cash, Investments & Loans	187,900	
TOTAL ASSETS	404,019	
LIABILITIES		
Unrestricted liabilities		
Payroll & sales tax liabilities	1,687	
Deferred advertising income	9,347	
Deferred membership fees	74,781	
Deferred income, future conventions	2,043	
Other deferred revenues	368	
Due to restricted funds	1,724	
Total current liabilities	89,950	
Restricted Liabilities		
Due to other funds	23,996	
Total Liabilities	113,946	
FUND BALANCES		
Unrestricted fund balances	126,169	
Restricted funds:		
Life Membership Fund	102,675	
Boyce Edens Research Fund	68,372	
Hudson Awards Fund	3,684	
Building Fund	(10,827)	
Total fund balances	290,073	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	$ 404,019	

Members

Union County Chapter (NJ)
(L) Marion Mossberg, (R) Janet Riemer

Harue Grady's "Mindy Brooke" won Best In Show at the Heart of Jacksonville AVS

(L) Libby Behnke and (R) Bessie Pyle of the Delaware AVS



Gene Loveland, AVC of Greater Kansas City, MO with "Maverick's Tight Jeans", Best In Show

Central FL AVS Member, Vlora Rafter, winner of the Eva Shea Award at the club's 25th Anniversary Show

Coming Events

September 6 & 7 - CALIFORNIA
AV Council of Southern CA Judged Show & Sale
Trinity Lutheran Church, 997 E. Walnut, Pasadena, CA
Sept 6 - 9am - 5pm, Sept 7 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Floyd Lawson (818) 574 - 1262
Ed Hoefer (714) 526 - 4773

September 7 - CALIFORNIA
Ventura County AVS African Violet Sale
Buenaventure Mall, Main St. and Mills Rd., Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 6pm

September 13 & 14 - TEXAS
Alpha AVS of Dallas Annual Fall Sale
Garden Ridge Mall, 1717 E. Spring Creek Parkway
at Central Frwy and Ave K, Plano, TX
Sept 13 & 14: 10am - 9pm
Info: (214) 278 - 0389

September 14 - CALIFORNIA
AVS of San Francisco Annual Plant Display & Sale
San Francisco County Fair Bldg, 9th Ave & Lincoln Way
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Ed Gergosian (415) 751 - 6037

September 20 & 21 - TENNESSEE
Volunteer State AV Council Judged Show
Memphis Botanical Garden in the Goldsmith Garden Center
Hours: 9am - 5pm
Info: George McDonald (502) 365 - 9118
Marian Zoller (901) 372 - 0283

September 21 - MISSOURI
Metro St. Louis AV Council, Fourteenth Annual Show/Sale
Fashion Mall of West Port Plaza, St. Louis, MO
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Mildred Borsch 878-8187

September 27 & 28 - IOWA
Cedar Valley AVC 5th Annual Show/Sale
Crossroads Mall, Waterloo, IA
Sept 27 - 10am - 9pm, Sept 28 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Pershing (319) 987 - 2235

September 27 & 28 - TEXAS
First AVS of Dallas Fall Sale
Richardson Square Mall, Plano Rd. & Beltline, Richardson, TX
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: (214) 278 - 0389

September 27 - 29 - WISCONSIN
WI Council of AV Clubs Annual Judged Plant Show/Sale
East Town Mall, Madison, WI
Sept 27 & 28 - 10am - 9pm, Sept 29 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552

September 28 & 29 - OHIO
Ohio State AV Convention Show
Kingswood Gardens, Mansfield, OH
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Betty Bartley (513) 324 - 3630

September 28 & 29 - NEBRASKA
Omaha AVS Fall Exhibit/Sale
Westroads Mall, 102nd & W. Dodge Rd.
Sept 28 - 10am - 9pm, Sept 29 - noon - 5pm
Info: Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

October 5 - WASHINGTON
Tacoma Saintpaulia Society AV Sale
Poole's Nursery, 6th & Union, Tacoma, WA
Hours: 10 - 3

October 5 & 6 - TEXAS
Spring Branch AVC Annual Display/Sale
Memorial City Mall
Oct 5 - 10am - 5pm, Oct 6 - noon - until sold out
Info: Elaine Click (713) 462 - 4257

October 5 & 6 - MICHIGAN
Michigan State AVS Fall Show/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI
Oct 5 - 10am - 4:30pm, Oct 6 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

October 6 - ALABAMA
Early Bird Violet Club AV Sale
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Hours: Noon - 4pm
Info: Jeri Whitlock 854 - 9978, Ramona Hodges 833 - 1309

October 11 & 12 - LOUISIANA
Top Choice AVS Plant Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, Bossier City, LA
Oct 11 - 10am - 6pm, Oct 12 - 10am - until sold out
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

October 11 - 13 - GEORGIA
GA AV Judges Society Annual Show/Sale
Lakeshore Mall, Gainesville, GA
Info: Joan Cumpton (912) 922 - 8362

October 11 - 13 - MISSOURI
Missouri Valley AV Council 12th Annual
Convention/Show/Sale
Hosted by the Unpredictable's AVS, Blue Springs, MO
Holiday Inn - Airport, 11832 Plaza Cir, Kansas City, MO
Show Hours: Sept 12 - noon - 5pm, Sept 13 - 11am - 2pm
Info: Sue Hill (816) 356 - 2978

October 11 - 13 - MINNESOTA
North Star AV Council Annual Fall Show
Eden Prairie Mall, Hwy 169 & Hwy 494, Eden Prairie, MN
Mall hours
Info: Jinean Schofield (612) 888 - 0044

October 12 & 13 - CALIFORNIA
Delta Gesneriad & AVS Annual Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley, Sacramento
Oct 12 - 2pm - 6pm, Oct 13 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Barbara Elkin (916) 878 - 0505

October12 & 13 - TEXAS
AV Study Club of Houston 22nd Annual Show/Sale
Hermann Park Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Dr, Houston, TX
Oct 12 - 2 - 5pm, Oct 13 - noon - 4pm
Info: Jane Rexilius (713) 723 - 8534

October 12 & 13 - OREGON
Portland AVS Mini Show/Sale
Beaverton Mall, 3205 SW Cedar Hills Blvd, Beaverton, OR
Oct 12 - 10am - 7pm, Oct 13 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Richard Smith (503) 771 - 5762

October 17 - 27 - NORTH CAROLINA
Green Thumb AVS Display at the NC State Fair,
Raleigh, NC (small greenhouse at rear of Flower Bldg)
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

October 18 - 20 - MINNESOTA
Lakes Area AV Growers Fall Display/Sale
Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave, just south of I 694
Oct 18 - 10am - 9pm, Oct 19 - 10am - 6pm, Oct 20 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Jean Ness (612) 429 - 4109

October 19 - NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque Saintpaulia Society All Day Seminar
"Miniatures: Horticulture To Design"
Presented by Pat Richards, AVM Columnist
Info: Linda Pitts (505) 299 - 0271

October 19 - CALIFORNIA
Fancy Bloomers AVS Annual Display/Sale
Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center,
2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Joanne Sparks (707) 584 - 7589

October 19 & 20 - TEXAS
First Austin AVS Show/Sale
Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Botanical Gardens
2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX
10am - 4:30pm both days
Info: Susan Storey (512) 353 - 2858

October 19 & 20 - ILLINOIS
Northern IL Gesneriad Society Display/Sale
Friendship Park Conservatory, 395 Algonquin Rd
Mount Prospect, IL
11am - 3pm both days
Info: Nancy Maybloom (847) 882 - 4652

October 25 & 26 - CANADA
Stampede City AVS Sponsored AVSA Judging School and
Workshop, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Teacher: Barbara Elkin of California
Info: Margaret Jarratt (403) 238 - 2863

October 25 & 26 - FLORIDA
Suncoast AVC Fall Show/Sale
St Bartholomew Episcopal Church Parish Hall
3747 34th St, S, St Petersburg, FL
Oct 25 - 9am - 4pm, Oct 26 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Retta Anderson (813) 866 - 3468

October 25 - 27 - FLORIDA
Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society Judged Show/Sale
Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 E. Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, FL
Oct 25 - noon - 9pm, Oct 26 - 10am - 9pm, Oct 27 - noon - 6pm
Info: JoAnn Martinez (813) 963 - 7424

October 26 & 27 - LOUISIANA
LA Council of AV Judges & Growers Show
Glennwood, 6230 Bluebonnet Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA
Oct 26 - 2pm - 6pm, Oct 27 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Mary McFarland (504) 923 - 3337

October 26 & 27 - FLORIDA
AV Council of FL, Judged Show/Sale
Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 E Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, FL
Oct 26 - noon - 9pm, Oct 27 - noon - 6pm
Sale: Mall hours Oct 25 - 27
Info: JoAnn Martinez (813) 963 - 7424

October 31 - November 2 - SOUTH AFRICA
Transvaal AVS Show/Sale
Christ Church Halls, 820 Pretorius St.,
Pretoria, Rep. of South Africa
Oct 31 - 2pm - 8pm, Nov 1 - 9am - 8pm, Nov 2 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Joan Halford S.A. (012) 562 - 0728

October 31- November 2 - TEXAS
Lone Star AV Council Convention, Show & Sale
Radisson Hotel, 2330 W. Northwest Hwy, Dallas, TX
Show opens Nov 1 - 1pm
Info: (214) 278 - 0389

November - 1 & 2 - NORTH CAROLINA
Green Thumb AVS Sale
Tarrytown Mall, Bus. 64 & US 301, Rocky Mount, NC
Both days: 10am - 8pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

November 1 - 3 - MINNESOTA
Minnesota AVS Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall (Snelling Ave & Cty. B, just S. of Hwy 36)
Nov 1 - 10am - 9pm, Nov 2 - 10am - 6pm, Nov 3 - noon - 5pm
Info: Donna Tobin (612) 426 - 4868

November 1-3 - GEORGIA
AVC of Greater Atlanta Annual Show/Sale
Outlet Square Mall, Atlanta, GA
Info: Joan Cumpton (912) 922 - 8362

November 2 & 3 - NEW JERSEY
TriState AV Council Judged Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ
Nov 2 - 1:30pm - 5pm, Nov 3 - 10am - 4pm
Info: David Tooker (908) 583 - 5968

November 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT
Nutmeg State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Days Inn, Exit 55, I-95, Branford, CT
Oct 26 - 1pm - 5pm, Oct 27 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (203) 926 - 9716

November 14 - 16 - VIRGINIA
Mid Atlantic AVS Convention, Show/Sale
Holiday Inn, 39th St and Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA
Info: Carol Van (757) 851 - 2543

WOULD-BE PLANT GROOMERS

by
Elmer McCormick
Berea, KY

Flower growers do have pet peeves. I have one that I have never seen discussed. That may be because there isn't much one can do about it, aside from complete isolation from the rest of the world. The following lines express my frustration.

Please keep your cotton pickin' fingers
To your very self,
Don't let them start to wander
Toward the plants upon my shelf.
And while you are my guest
In this place so full of bloom
Please, oh, please, remember,
I'm the only one that's free to groom.

If you see a bloom that's fading
From the glory of its yesterday,
Or a leaf, that by your standards,
Should be plucked and tossed away;
Please remember that the fading flower
May contain a capsule of precious seed,
So keep your fingers to yourself,
This, I most earnestly now plead.

I am sure that most of you have experienced the would-be groomer who walks brazenly into your flower room and proceeds to pick off all the faded blossoms. Sure, I'll admit there may be a dozen, or maybe even a hundred old blooms that need removing, but on the other hand, among those fading blooms there may be some valuable seed pods that I have carefully pollinated.

The would-be groomer usually "oohs" and "aahs", nearly drooling at the oodles of blooms before I can stop them from reaching my favorite plant and picking off what they thought was a dead bloom. You guessed it, that one was a seed pod on a prized plant that was most difficult to get to set even this one pod. No wonder professional hybridizers keep the seed-pod plants carefully hidden from public view.

At one time, I had a window of simply gorgeous red and white spotted geraniums...a family heirloom, actually. The plant was absolutely beautiful. Imagine my surprise when I came home one afternoon to find that they had all been turned, groomed and nearly destroyed by a well-meaning family friend. When I asked Wife what had happened, she said, "Hazel was here, and she turned ALL of your plants for you." Now, Hazel was one of those who bragged on how she had a brown thumb and that most plants "just won't grow for me!" Visions of murder passed quickly before my eyes, but would have been poor publicity for the church I was pastoring. Hazel was one of our good, faithful members.

Relatives, company from far away, and even folk from near-by who come only to see all the "pretties" often manage to drive me to distraction. Usually, these folks don't intend to buy a plant, and proudly tell me how, "violets won't grow for me." They then proceed to pick up a pretty plant they spotted sitting way back on a shelf. They bring it out, admire it, and then, spy one they like even better. They sort of shove the first plant back, nearly denuding it and breaking leaves off of several neighbors. (This is why I always ask a grower to lift a plant I'm considering buying so I can get a better look.)

So what can I do? These following suggestions are, of course, made with tongue in cheek.

1.Place a large sign over the door (flashing neon letters) that says:

"DO NOT TOUCH THE PLANTS"

2. Put a sign on each shelf: "$1.00 charge for each faded bloom picked, $1.50 for each broken leaf.

3. Complimentary handcuffs provided for all visitors, especially would-be groomers. (chains available for children)

In all honesty, the majority of Folk, especially African violet Folk, are very considerate of my hobby, and I wouldn't want to hurt their feelings in any way. It's just the would-be groomers I fear.

So come and see my hobby in full bloom...forty feet of shelves under lights, with enough bloom to take your breath away. The very large double window is filled with, yes, the spotted geraniums, and all hanging space is filled with orchids. Just, please, warn me ahead of time if you're a would-be groomer!

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Balderdash - bright pink semidouble to double pansies with dark purple fantasy markings over somewhat glossy, medium-to-dark green, symmetrical foliage. ($2.25)

Bounty Hunter - single to semidouble smooth-edged white pansies with blue centers and brushed with blue on the petal edges, occasionally with light blue veining; plain light-to-medium green foliage; exceptionally heavy bloomer. ($2.00)

Cathedral - very large vivid pink full double stars heavily spattered with dark purple, colorful as a stained glass window; dark green tailored foliage; grows very large and blooms very heavily. ($2.25)

Everything's Rosy - double rose/orchid pansies over deep green tailored foliage; tends to bloom heavily even when plants are quite young. ($2.00)

Graffiti - large and striking single to semidouble pink stars boldly streaked with blue/purple fantasy; plain medium green foliage; excellent bloomer; the most-requested variety from our display table in Atlanta. ($2.25)

I Feel Pretty - smooth-edged white single to semidouble pansies with bright pink eyes and touched with bright pink on petal edges; symmetrical, quilted, light-to-medium green foliage; an easy show plant; prolific bloomer. ($2.00)

Luxury Liner - glowing wine semidouble stars with darker tips and with fluted white edges atop magnificent, symmetrical, slightly wavy, deep green foliage variegated with shades of lavender/pink and cream; makes a beautiful show plant; can be grown big as a boat! ($2.25)

Maria - lovely shell pink semidouble pansies with frilled edges, often with deeper pink shadings on upper petals; symmetrical dark green foliage; good heavy bloomer. ($2.00)

Officer Krupke - vibrant deep violet blue semidouble to double blossoms are clustered over deep green quilted foliage; a good strong plant that is also an excellent bloomer. (Officer Krupke was the cop in "West Side Story") ($2.00)

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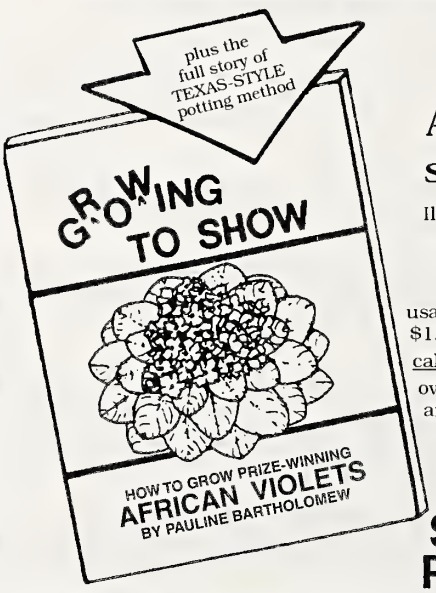

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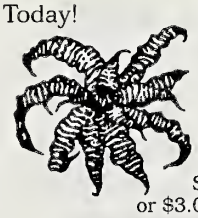

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Bessie Pyle 1993 Del. African Violet Show

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS
3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	$ 1.20	$ 2.75	$ 5.00	$ 9.80	$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta		4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00	

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80	
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00	

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(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

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	100	500	1000
3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	1.00	4.75	7.00
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.25	5.75	10.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.50	7.00	13.00
4 1/2" White only	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

	1	6	12	25	50
4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4"	4.50	26.00	49.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS - No Holes

25-1/2" x 13-1/2" x 3-3/16" Gr. or Wt.	3.60	20.25	38.50	73.50	

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Mini (6")	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

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$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

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Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - $4.00 min.
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Formula	Type	Size / Price	
		4 oz.	8 oz.
12-36-14	African Violet Special	$1.60	$3.00
5-50-17	Variegated Special	1.60	3.00
		4 oz	12 oz
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	1.25	3.00
		4 oz.	16 oz.
20-20-20	General Purpose	1.25	3.00
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone			2 lbs./$1.75
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	40 oz.
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
		4 qts.	16 qts.
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.50	4.50
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
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DANDY POTS
2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS
Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3"
4"-5"-6"

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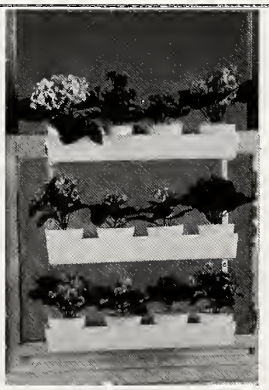

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PITTMAN - Alamo Frills, Alamo Stranger, Alamo Marvel. **Standards**

SOME OF OUR TRAILERS Rob's Wooloomooloo, Rob's Jindalee, Rob's Willawong, Mission Bells, Bobby Belles, Cancan Tr., Falling Star, Lucite Tr., Tinywood Tr., Cirelda, Always Pink, Santa Fe Tr., Baby Brian, Brazos Belle. Try our trailers!! We think you will be pleased growing them!

STARTER PLANTS $3.50 each. When ordering from this ad, there is a $14.00 minimum plus shipping. Our complete list is available for $1.00 in stamps or cash. Anyone ordering our list after **November 1** will be sent our 1997 list in January.

24 new leaves of our choice - $22.00. New and previous releases our choice - 24 for $18.00 or 50 for $32.00, plus shipping. **Priority shipping on leaves** -- $5.00. Plants -- $6.00 for first six. 40 cents for each additional plant. Texans add 7 3/4% sales tax.

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12 Varieties, my choice - $14.50 postage paid
24 Varieties, my choice - $26.00 postage paid
50 Varieties, my choice - $48.00 postage paid

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Rob's Mini-o-lets
African Violets and Gesneriads

ROB'S CLOUDY SKIES: Loads and loads of fully dbl. white and light blue multicolor stars; miniature
ROB'S COTTON BALL: Masses of large, triple, carnation-like white pom-pom blooms w/hint of blue in eye and green petal backs; med. green foliage; gorgeous semimini
ROB'S HIPPITY HOP: Wow! Fantastic sdbl. frilled med. orchid-blue w/thick edging of very dark purple; spectacular semimini
ROB'S JINDALEE: Masses of dbl. med.-dark blue blooms w/occasional touches of white on tips; extremely profuse; terrific semimini trailer
ROB'S PERFECT PEACH: Best new intro at '95 AVSA; masses of unusual peachy-salmon dbls. w/rusty petal backs, often w/green; perfect, dark foliage; tremendous semimini showplant
ROB'S PINK PUFF: Lovely, heavily frilled, fully dbl. pink carnation blooms; dark foliage; great blooming semimini
ROB'S SCOOTER: A favorite of those who've seen it; adorable bright blue sdbl. pansies w/prominent yellow anthers, very dark foliage; very easy grower and bloomer; semimini

SOME OF THE NEW STREPTOCARPUS

BRISTOL'S BLUEBIRD: Extremely heavy bloomer, 12+ blooms per stem; deep velvety blue w/black center, two white 'eyes'
BRISTOL'S LIBATION: Large med. wine-purple dbls. w/darker purple netting; very showy
BRISTOL'S LUV IT: My favorite! Lovely deep watermelon-pink, dk. maroon maple leaf stripes on cream throat fading to white; very heavy bloomer, 60+ on mature plant
BRISTOL'S NIGHTFALL: Stunning! Dark blue w/thick black veining on bright yellow throat; 60+ blooms on mature plant
BRISTOL'S TALLY HO: Beautiful large sdbl. blooms, top petals lt. orchid, lower petals dk. orchid purple; terrific
BRISTOL'S TIE DYED: Spectacular! Dbl. white blooms, lower petals dk. red-purple w/white edge; excellent performer

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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal
Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top
Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top
Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 3", 3 1/4", and 4" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	$1.00	$1.90	$4.30	$7.25	$35.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.00	1.90	4.30	7.25	35.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.40	2.40	4.80	9.25	40.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.65	3.00	6.00	11.00	46.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.00	3.80	8.00	15.00	61.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	2.30	4.00	9.50	16.50	71.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.80	4.40	11.00	20.00	82.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	3.00	5.40	12.00	22.00	91.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.50	6.80	15.00	28.00	115.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	4.30	7.50	18.00	35.00	145.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	5.00	9.00	20.00	37.00	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.60	15.00	35.00	65.00	170.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.00	42.00	72.00	180.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	11.00	20.00	48.00	92.00	220.00
MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers							
	TC		3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high							
4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	11.00	20.00	92.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	15.20	30.00	130.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	$1.00	$4.50	$8.00	$17.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.20	5.45	10.00	24.20
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	3.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100
3"	Wh	$1.75	$3.40	$7.00	$12.50
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00
SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS					
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00

CLEAR SAUCERS

Size	10
6"	$2.75
7"	4.30
8"	5.10
9"	6.40
10"	7.30
11"	10.25
12"	11.75

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 3.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	$3.75	$33.50
#2 Starter 22"L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	$1.75	$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	$1.75	$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	$1.25	$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	$1.75	$15.00

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	$2.05	$14.50	$22.50	$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

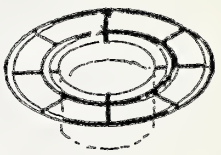
Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	$4.50	$24.00	$43.00	$75.00

WATER RESERVOIRS - See-through for WICK-WATERING
Wicks not supplied • 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100	500
8 oz. (4" wide x 1 3/4" high)	$6.00	$10.00	$21.00	$40.00	$160.00
16 oz. (4" wide x 3" high)	6.00	10.00	21.50	40.00	175.00
32 oz. (5 1/4" wide x 3 3/8 high)	8.00	14.00	31.00	59.00	250.00

LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	3	10	25
6" fits to 3" pot	$3.00	$10.00	$20.00
9" fits to 5" pot	3.60	11.50	23.00
12" fits to 5" pot	4.50	13.00	26.00
15" fits to 8" pot	7.00	19.00	40.00
18" fits to 8" pot	8.00	22.00	45.00



POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite,	1 gal.	$2.00
vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	2 gal.	$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but	1 gal.	$2.00
contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	2 gal.	$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	$2.25
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	$2.25
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	1 lb.	$1.50
CHARCOAL - Keeps mix sweet	12 oz.	$2.00
SPHAGNUM MOSS - Holds moisture in baskets	1/4 cu. ft.	$4.00
BLOOD MEAL (12-0-0) - Keeps plants green	1 lb.	$2.00
BONE MEAL (0-11-0) - Develops stems and roots	1 lb.	$1.35

GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)		2 oz./$1.75	6 oz./$3.25
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)		2 oz./$1.75	6 oz./$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)		5.5 oz./$2.00	12 oz./$3.30
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./$3.00	2 oz./$4.00	4 oz./$6.50

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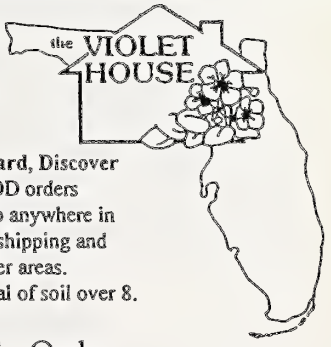

- We accept **Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover**
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The Violet Express

" Superior violets expressly for you! "

Genola B. Cox

1440-41 Everett Road
Eagle River, WI 54521
(715) 479-3099

September, 1996

To all my friends in violetry,

It is with many regrets and emotions tinged with sadness, that I announce the closing of The Violet Express on October 1st of this year.

There are no words to adequately express my deepest thanks to you, my customers and friends in violetry, for your loyalty, encouragement, and the many kindnesses so graciously shown me and my staff through the years. We have always tried our best to provide you with the finest in quality and service. Our gratitude knows no bounds for your thoughtfulness in letting us know, through letters, phone calls, and visits to the shop, that you have appreciated our efforts, have grown our plants and leaves with success and that they have brought a measure of beauty and pleasure into your lives as they have into ours.

So many of you have voiced your delight with The Violet Express catalog each year. Your response has been a wonderful reward for the time and effort put forth each season in its preparation. Writing the descriptions of the plants has given me the opportunity of expressing my personal enthusiasm with the merits of each variety offered. I have loved sharing these "word pictures" with you.

Through the years it has been my good fortune to have met many of you personally and through our mutual interest (or is it passion?) for African violets, counting each new friendship among the treasures of my life. Perhaps we have only talked by phone or via the mail, but I feel a bond of fellowship has been established through our communications. How lucky I am to have been blessed with the association of some of the very nicest, most special people in the world!

My new home in Naples, Florida, will bring me closer to my daughters, their husbands, and my grandchildren. Being able to share precious time with them has been a priority sadly neglected for several years. Although I will continue to grow a few favorite varieties for my own enjoyment (my growing space will be very limited), I hope to pursue a number of other interests that have been put 'on hold' for the eleven years that I have happily devoted to The Violet Express.

Sharon, Fran and Marcia join me in appreciation for the enrichments you have given our lives. Fran and her husband are also moving back to Florida - she has family there, too - but we will not be residing close enough to relocate the business there. Without the devotion and dedication Fran has given to growing and caring for the plants, the organized, thorough work Sharon has provided with the many details of shipping and office work, and Marcia's help for the last two years, cheerfully doing whatever task was asked of her at all times, The Violet Express could not have maintained its standards of excellence. No one could ever have finer assistants than these three ladies, whose friendship I cherish so deeply.

Again, our sincere thanks from all at The Violet Express. And to all of you we wish continued enjoyment in the loveliness of our beloved African violets; may they always be a source of great pleasure in your lives. I hope we shall someday meet again on life's path, one whose borders are gloriously arrayed along the way by violets in all their beauty.

With fondest memories,

Genola

The Violet Express

"Superior violets expressly for you!"

! FINAL CLOSING SALE !

The Violet Express is closing its doors on October 1st and all plants, leaves, supplies, and growing equipment must be disposed of by this time. We hope you will find it in your heart to provide a home for our remaining beautiful, precious "babies". Some of our stock plants will be for sale, at the shop only.

Call if you wish information about available varieties - we have many that are not listed in our current catalog. Used light carts (clean and in excellent condition), flats, etc. are available at a *very* good prices. see specifics in this ad or call during business hours for details.

❀ PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION VERY CAREFULLY ❀

◆ ◆ ◆

◆ ◆*ALL ORDERS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th.*

The plants are of good size, *WELL ESTABLISHED* in 21/4″ or 21/2″ wicked pots. Leaves are fresh cut just prior to shipping. All are show quality varieties, both old and new, created by the world's premier hybridizers.

❀ **"OUR CHOICE" STARTER PLANTS, $3.00 EACH, OR 25 PLANTS FOR $60.00 (save $15), PLUS SHIPPING**

You may specify your preference in sizes (Standards, minis, semi-minis, and/or trailers), bloom color, style, and foliage. We will do our best to follow your directions, subject to availability. Varieties will be labeled and not duplicated in your order. *If you have received plants and/or leaves from The Violet Express this year, your earlier order(s) will be checked to avoid duplication of previously ordered varieties if at all possible.*

✻ **"YOUR CHOICE" STARTER PLANTS, $3.25 EACH, OR 25 PLANTS FOR $75.00 (save $6.25), PLUS SHIPPING**

If ordering *"your choice"*, be sure to list plenty of acceptable substitutes as we may be sold out of your requested varieties. We will not sub unless necessary. Questions regarding the availability of varieties? Please call *ASAP!*

✻ ***EXTRA SPECIAL ON ORDERS FOR MINIS & SEMIMINIS, PLANTS ONLY, 25 OF OUR CHOICE FOR $40.00.***
(That's only $1.60 each) PLUS SHIPPING. No standards included in this offer. *We've had a bumper crop of minis & semiminis this season - our leaves have produced far more babies than usual and we have an excellent selection of these 'little ones' yearning for good homes! Take advantage of this great low price for these delightful plants!*

NOTE: Sale prices also include Chiritas, Columneas, Episcias (very limited!!), and Streptocarpus.
These sale prices do not include leaves or Chimeras.

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✻ OUR REMAINING SELECTION OF AVAILABLE CHIMERAS IS LIMITED ✻

◆ ◆ ◆

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ALL OTHER CONTIGUOUS STATES VIA PRIORITY MAIL. $10.75 BASIC SHIPPING.
ALL ORDERS: Add to shipping charges: 50 cents for each plant after the 1st 4 plants ordered.
Add to shipping charges: 10 cents for each leaf after the 1st 12 leaves ordered.
SALES TAX: Wisconsin residents, add 5 1/2% sales tax to the total of plants and shipping charges.

◆ Refer to page 72 in our 1996 catalog for details on shipping charges to Hawaii, Alaska, and Canada. ◆
If UPS 2nd Day Air is preferred, call for shipping costs.

◆ ***Your orders are expertly wrapped and packed with TLC*** ◆

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Available: many sets of good, used, clean, small flats with domes, eggcrating & matting for $2.00 each, plus shipping.

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF USED, CLEAN, 3-TIER 'FLORA CARTS' COMPLETE WITH LIGHTS, TRAYS, EGGCRATING, MATTING AND WHEELS. AVAILABLE FOR $250 EACH. ALSO, SEVERAL 4-TIER REDWOOD CARTS (hold large tray or 4 flats per shelf) COMPLETE, AS ABOVE, FOR $200 EACH. The redwood carts are sturdy, attractive, custom made, the same size as the Flora Carts and have wheels, but have non-adjustable shelves & lights and cannot be disassembled for transporting. They are excellent for leaf flats, small starters and/or minis. Also available are a number of clean, USED 2′ x 4′ FIBERGLASS TRAYS WITH EGGCRATING FOR $25 EACH, that fit both style carts. We have some clean, used matting for these trays also; no charge for this with trays.

WE CANNOT PACK AND/OR SHIP ANY OF THE CARTS, LIGHTS, ETC. OR EXTRA TRAYS.
THEY MUST BE PICKED UP AT THE SHOP NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 5th.

GENOLA B. COX - 1440-41 Everett Road, Eagle River, WI 54521 Telephone: (715) 479-3099
The shop will remain open Tuesday through Saturday, 10-4, through Saturday, September 28th.

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African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December 1996 Volume [illegible] Number 6

AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:
Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual $18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - $20.50; Commercial USA $30; Commercial International - $33.75; Life (USA) - $275. International Life $325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - $20; Council, State or Region - $20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bob Green, 997 Botany Lane, Rockledge, FL 32955, 407-631-1106.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: Cindy Chatelain, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.
E-mail offmgr@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, AVSA Office, 2375 North, Beaumont, TX 77702.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, 1534 Robeson, Fall River, MA 02720.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: St. Petersburg, FL - June 1-8, 1997. Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - $8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 $6.00 per 100;1000 and over - $4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 $27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - $25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over $23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - $10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook **prior** to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is $4.25

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

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AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail editor@avsa.org

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue -Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb.1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and copy info: Diane Richardson, 9207 Ravenwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237; 410-686-4667.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan. issue - Oct. 15; Mar. issue - Dec. 15; May issue - Feb. 15; July issue - Apr. 15; Sept. issue - June 15; Nov. issue Aug. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send to Ruth Goeke, 4851 Pieper Rd., Brenham, TX 77833.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Jim Smith, 1449 Paloma Ln., Dunedin, FL 34698 and Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at $6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder. **MVL Number 7 available soon. Call AVSA office for details.**

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - $8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - $25.00. Updates (when available) - $25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - $25.00. Updates $7.50.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Richard Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - $7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December Volume 49 Number 6

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

Dear AVSA Members and Friends,

Fall is in the air! To me, this is a wonderful time of the year. The heat of summer has passed and cool afternoons and evenings allow us to indulge in our favorite pastime of working with our African violets; grooming them for coming shows. Although our local affiliate club had its annual show in the spring, there are a number of other clubs who prefer to host a fall show. It's amazing how easily we are able to gear our growing, assuming the plants cooperate, to have them ready for whatever season is chosen for our show.

In the production of show specimens, the first consideration has to be the quality of the plant you intend to exhibit. By attending African violet shows in your area, you are able to obtain first-hand information from several sources, but my favorite is the African Violet Magazine. If you are already growing America's favorite house plant, but are not a member of AVSA, why not treat yourself to an abundance of information, delightful articles, helpful growing techniques, and great photographs? Simply send your application for membership and a check for $18 to cover one year's subscription. Our headquarters' address is: AVSA, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, Texas 77702. You will be happy that you did!

Many of you may have heard that several of our commercial growers, and shippers of African violets, have gone out of business. To those of you who are no longer in business, allow me to express my personal gratitude to all of you for the many contributions you made to the African violet world. We appreciate all of your efforts and will certainly miss you! May your years be filled with good health and much enjoyment.

With the Christmas holidays just a short time away, some of you may be looking for a gift for that certain person on your list. May I suggest two very appropriate gifts that would please any African violet grower? A subscription to the African Violet Magazine and a copy of the Fiftieth Anniversary booklet. Both of these items would be greatly appreciated. The anniversary booklet is filled with beautiful photographs in brilliant color.

As we approach the holiday season, I wish for you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Christmas season filled with love, joy and good health.

Sincerely,

L.T. Ozio, Jr.

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • *email* editor@avsa.org

Once again, my supply of articles is almost gone. I really encourage all of you to write for **your** African Violet Magazine. It matters not if you consider yourself a novice writer, or if you have never written before, anyone who has grown African violets for any length of time has experiences to share. From what I hear, many of our members sincerely enjoy reading about what others have tried and learned from growing these precious houseplants. I'll be waiting for your articles.

A big "thank you" to those of you who contribute regularly to the AVM. In this issue, be sure to read **Kyle Coleman's** helpful article on "Creative and Functional Yearbooks" (pg.27). **Don Geiss** shares his "Tales of the Violet Repairman" (pg.30), and **Lola Rossi** gives us helpful tips for new and experienced growers in her article, "Violet Success - the Basics" (pg. 33).

Our friends from New York, **Bill** and **Ellen Beckerman**, explain all about the internet, in "What Is the Internet and Why Should I Care?" on page 44. 1 found this article particularly useful since I have recently gained access to the internet. The amount of information available through the "net" is truly amazing. If you haven't seen AVSA's own web site, please do, at http://avsa.org. If you would like to contact me through email, my address is **editor@avsa.org**

Look for **Ruth Goeke**'s first compilation of show champions, "And the Winners Are..." on page 22. Please remember to **PRINT OR TYPE** your show results on the forms. This is the only way you can be sure that your winner's names will be read and spelled correctly.

As many of you know, a large group of folks from Japan attended the AVSA 50th Convention in Atlanta last May. I heard from Board Member, **Kazuo Horikoshi**, about the newlyweds who came to the convention on their honeymoon. Kazuo sent me a photo and a brief story about **Ken-ich** and **Saki Okishita** (pg. 18). I have been in communication via the internet with Ken and have seen pictures of some of the beautiful violets that he grows at home in Japan.

I encourage all of our Commercial Members to advertise in the AVM, and all of our other members to patronize these businesses. Remember that all Commercial Members are listed each year in the September-October AVM. These members not only carry the plants you desire, but through them you will be able to order high quality supplies for your growing needs. I welcome the new owners of The Violet House, **Bill** and **Bebe Edwards**, who recently purchased the business from long-time owner and AVM advertiser, **J.D. Rice**. His former partners, **Dick** and **Ann Maduro**, are graciously sharing their experiences in the violet world with Bill and Bebe.

Some time ago I received a letter from **W. Jenkins** of Hixon, TN, suggesting that I include the size (mini, semi, standard) of plant along with the name and other information in the Showcase color photos. It's a good idea, and will begin with this issue. Professional and amateur hybridizers, please include the plant size when you send slides for reproduction in the AVM.

In the production of the African Violet Magazine, I am always grateful for the guidance I receive from our Publications Committee Chairman, **Jane Rexilius**. It's great to have someone supportive and caring to turn to for advice and encouragement. Also, thanks to all of our columnists who contribute their time and effort to each issue making this an informative, interesting publication. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Happy Holidays!

Board Authorized Change to MVL Supplement

At the request of the AVSA Board of Directors, Dr. Jeff Smith of Ball State University and author of "In Search of New Violets", and a committee chaired by AVSA Past President Mary Boland, have revised the species descriptions in the MVL supplement to reflect the latest research findings.

African Violet Society of America, Inc. Memo

by: Cindy Chatelain - AVSA Office Manager
2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702

Just as many of our members are doing this time of year, the office staff too, has been busy repotting violets. The violets survived the hot Texas summer in rather poor shape. Hopefully, the repotting and cooler autumn weather will give them a much needed boost. We have also disbudded and sprayed for six weeks because of thrips, but now anticipate the beautiful array of blossoms that will greet us each morning.

The office received numerous inquiries about the change in fluorescent lighting. The standard cool white and warm white tubes that so many people use in their fixtures can no longer be purchased. I understand that this does not affect Grolux tubes because many manufacturers had to change the wattage and pins on the warm white and cool white bulbs only. If anyone has more information, please send it to me or give me a call.

If you tried to call the office Friday, September 27, and could not get an answer, it was because we experienced severe flooding due to an extremely heavy rainfall. All roads leading to the office were under water and no one could get through. Thankfully, the office received no water damage.

All affiliates should have received their insurance form by now. If you did not receive the form, please call me and I will send you another one. Remember, these need to be completed and mailed back to me by November 15.

Marlene Buck, **Boyce Edens Research Fund** chairman, has requested that members who normally send donations to her home address, please send them to the Beaumont office. Marlene is moving and it may be some time before she has a new permanent address. The Beaumont office will see that she receives all donation information and she will acknowledge all donations. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

The office has received many comments and helpful suggestions about the AVSA web site. I am so excited about the possibilities of this new form of communication. It offers the ability to introduce AVSA to people worldwide. I encourage you to view not only our web site, but also the other interesting sites devoted to African violets and gesneriads. The material is varied and informative. For those of you who did not attend the AVSA convention in Atlanta, the Triangle African Violet web site contains some great pictures taken there. You can access the Triangle AV web site through our links page. Please continue to let me know what you would like to see on the AVSA web site. You may access the site at http://avsa.org.

The remainder of our MVL #6 in stock will be sold for $6.50 each after November 1. If you have the updates from the inserts in the November 1992 thru 1996 issues, this is a bargain. MVL #7 will be available from the office too. If you order the MVL, please specify if you want MVL #6 or you want the new MVL #7. I don't have the price as of this date, so you may want to call the office the latter part of November and request the price.

Please make the following corrections or additions to your September 1996 insert for Affiliates and Judges:

Affiliates:

Missouri

Gateway African Violet Club, Mary Manning, President, 3034 Brentmoor Dr., Arnold, MO 63010.

Gateway West Gesneriad Society, Dale Emblade, President, 3418 McKibbon, St. Louis, MO 63114. (Gateway West Gesneriad is a new affiliate and there was some confusion when the AVM list was printed. We sincerely apologize for the error.)

Florida

Treasure Cove AVS of Florida, Mary van der Lugt, President, P.O. Box 232, Fort Pierce, FL 34982.

Judges:

California

Rita Linkswiler, Judge, 12512 Prairie Rose Way, Bakersfield, CA 93312.

Don Thornburg, correct zip code is 95949.

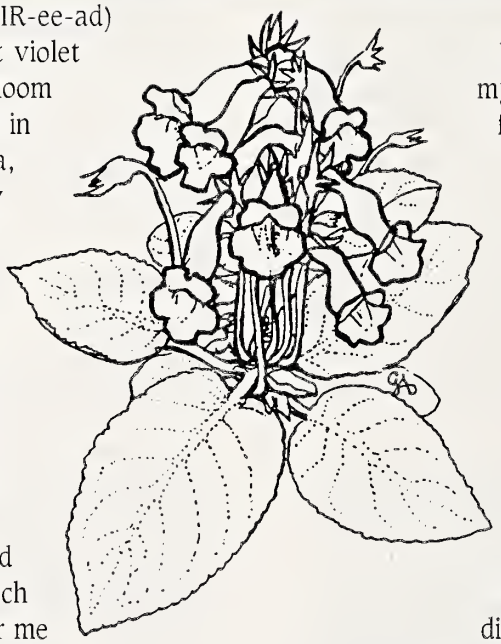
If I have missed anyone, or there are any further corrections, please let me know.

A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Sinningia "Carbo Frio"

Our featured gesneriad (guess-NAIR-ee-ad) produces a fantastic amount of vibrant violet blooms. The illustration depicts a first bloom flush four weeks after the tuber arrived in the mail. Peg Phythyon, of Alabama, shares this beauty that Isla Montgomery found growing under a cactus in Brazil.



I planted it with the tuber high above the soil line so that the tuber would not be constantly wet. This also provides air circulation around the tuber and plant. It was placed on the top shelf of my light garden, where it is warm and bright, in the center of the two fluorescent tubes.

Peg grows hers under lights, too, and reports 30 to 50 flowers on a twelve-inch plant. The foliage grows perfectly flat for me indicating that it does like lots of light. Just like African violets, the leaves of Sinningia will stretch upward in search of more light. Since this variety grows with cactus, it must like to be drier than most Sinningias. And, this may be the reason I've had trouble trying to root leaves. I enclose them and they rot before they root. I will try again making sure that the foliage is completely dry before inserting stems. Cutting the leaves in half did not work either.

Watch for this variety in catalogs and seed lists. It is a real winner, thanks to Isla and Peg. If you have learned cultural tips that will help other growers, please share with us.

BIG CHILL

We had a record low one night in July and my Achimenes were severely chilled. The foliage turned brown and some of them went to sleep without producing rhizomes. They were under the porch roof and I thought they were safe but the temperature fell below 46°. I cut the brown foliage down and some were sending up green leaves from the first node where I had pinched them. Achimenes are known to freeze at 55°, so, I guess I'll be lucky to have any of them survive. I must admit that this hurt a lot because they are a favorite hanging basket. I was embarrassed when my violet society came for a picnic and I did not have one good basket to show them. There is nothing more beautiful than an Achimenes in profuse bloom.

ANNIVERSARY HAPPINESS

Atlanta gave us a wonderful convention for the 50th Anniversary celebration. Thanks to so many of you who have complimented me on the watercolor cover of the Anniversary book. I loved doing it and hope you noticed my attempt to depict the hybridization in stages from species up to the yellow blooming plants.

Ruthie Rumsey must be highly complimented on this special publication. Great job, Ruthie. Good decision from the Board and Publishing Committee, too. Perhaps we need a special Annual publication like the Rose Society. It is full

of many interesting things that could not be placed in the magazine. Members can purchase it extra if they wish.

LIGHT PRINCE

Remember me telling you that I had no film in my camera at Dixie Convention. Well, the lovely lady who grew the fantastic Columnea 'Light Prince' in bloom, sent me photos of the plant. She is Ramona Hodges of Birmingham, AL. The contrast of the orange flowers against the variegated foliage is just smashing. Congratulations on growing a super plant. Thanks, for the pictures. Donna Noel also gave me photos. Very generous people in the plant world. Many thanks.

May you all have the most blessed Holiday Season.

Looking for a New Shepherd

Bill and Kathryn Paauwe • *Violets by Appointment*
45 Third Street • West Sayville, NY 11796-1109

Several years ago, we undertook the task of obtaining and assembling a large number of Maas' varieties. We were assisted greatly by the Union County (New Jersey) Chapter, especially Janet Riemer and Walther Ott. We also credit Lois Szostak and Anita Rudolph from Long Island for adding to our Maas' inventory. We now have 45 varieties.

Many of you know that our main focus is mail-order leaves. This necessitates our having a mature plant of each variety from which to fill orders. More than 40 Maas' standard varieties fill two 8-foot benches. In addition, we have several young plants of most of these varieties in trays, as well as new plants propagating on their respective mother-leaves.

By this time, you probably realize that our main concern is **space**. With all the new varieties we add each year, we must discontinue approximately as many varieties as we add (to keep our total varieties from increasing to an unmanageable number). Our basement cannot be expanded!

We have to face the fact that we can no longer devote such a large growing area to these varieties, and we would be open to any suggestions about passing them on to someone else. We have enjoyed being a part of this effort and regret that the feather in our caps has become a millstone around our necks! Of course, there are some of the Maas varieties with which we'll never part, including some of the more recent releases.

If any grower is interested in being shepherd of the Maas varieties, please contact us.

SAVE THOSE SUCKERS

by Dorothy Anderson

Because I have found that plants grown from suckers are more apt to be a clone of their parents, I have tried many ways of saving them when the leaves are no larger than a fingernail. A procedure using small medicine cups (available at pharmacies) with tiny holes melted into the bottom, works for me. I use a candle to heat the end of a nutpick, then puncture the bottom. Yes, I know that there are electric soldering irons that will do the trick, but my husband says he does not need one. (And I had thought it would be a good gift for him!)

I place one strand of yarn through the holes before adding about an 1/8 inch layer of perlite, then fill the cup with regular potting soil. I carefully remove a sucker with a dentist pick and place it on top of the soil. Then, using a staple from a staple gun, I carefully place the prongs on each side of the center of the sucker, gently securing it to the top of the soil. This enables the sucker to keep in contact with the soil. The cup is then placed in fertilized water also containing a couple of drops of Superthrive. When the soil is moist on top, I remove the cup, placing it in a plastic container (such as deli salad containers) and tuck it under the lights. Sometimes, when desperate, I have used a window sill. The results are not quite as good, but even then, the success rate is more than 75%.

I have been amazed to see that I can begin to grow the smallest of suckers.

Reprinted with permission from the "Council News", publication of the Missouri Valley AV Council.

Thinking Small

Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004

Over the past year, we have tried to familiarize ourselves with the culture of the small ones. Today our task is to review a few concepts in more depth, and to address some ideas and information by growers of the small ones.

Off To A Fresh Start

Several readers have expressed concern over the proper method to use when repotting the small ones. Ed Allwood of Virginia has a neat, handy-dandy tip to use when repotting: use the plastic pieces that fall out of the handles of gallon milk jugs to compress the soil when repotting. They are in plenteous supply at the bottom of dairy display cases and are free for the asking.

Ralph Robinson suggests using another alternative. It is his theory that when repotting, don't replace a little bit of soil, instead, do a complete repotting! Begin by removing all but four leaves from the plant and reduce the soil and root ball almost as drastically. Have a clean pot with fresh soil ready. Then, drill a hole in the center of the soil with your finger. Insert your plant, close up the soil around the neck, and return it to its growing area. Notice, no messy soil on the petioles or leaves, and no awkward filling in of soil. I have tried this tip with success, although I lost a few less than perfect plants in the process. It is a very beneficial process and in a short time the plants take off nicely. In half a year you have a lovely rejuvenated plant again.

Before we move on, let me mention quickly the concerns of a very good grower from the St. Louis area, Mary Ann Switzer. In response to my article cautioning against the use of vermiculite used for insulation purposes, Mary Ann sent me a clipping from the Canadian African Violet Society's publication, "Chatter" which proclaimed builder's vermiculite to be perfectly sterile. She indicated she used this grade of vermiculite on her standards, but not on her small ones because the chunks are too large. In response I cited an article of my own to her from the *AVM*. (Does this remind you of the Diatomaceious Earth debate of a few years ago?) The point is, make sure the products you use are labeled for horticulture use. If they are not, be sure you ask a lot of questions and read the labels thoroughly. To be precise, better safe than sorry.

The Great Debate

The one concept I have received the most feedback on (actually, the most advice to rethink my position), has been whether or not to use perlite at the bottom of the pot. Several very highly respected growers contacted me, telling me about their excellent results using perlite at the bottom. Part of their rationale is to increase the oxygen available to the roots. For this reason, it is also recommended that holes be made in the sides of the pots near the bottom to further facilitate the availability of oxygen. (The holes may be made with a soldering iron in a well-ventilated area, or, if the plastic is thin as with solo cups, merely punched in the side.) Violets can be either wicked or matted with this arrangement, depending on your preferred style.

Well, gentle reader, this presents a dilemma. For several years I grew my small ones with perlite in the bottom of the pot. I really like this system because if nothing else, it does prevent overwatering problems. The perlite truly does provide more air to the roots. But, perlite has its drawbacks, too. First, it does not have great ion exchange capacity. In layman's terms, violets cannot use fertilizer directly: the fertilizer must first be converted to a form that allows it to be taken up by the plant, and this conversion process takes place vis-a-vis the soil. Certain soil elements are more conducive to converting fertilizers than others; these are described as having high "ion exchange capacities" or IEC's. Peat and vermiculite all have high IEC's. Note: they all absorb and retain water as well! Perlite's IEC is non-existent. To make a long story short, I began to notice that my violet's best roots were growing in the perlite, possibly because that's where the air was! However, in this layer the IEC is so poor that the roots could not make good use of what they were getting. By going entirely to soil mix, instead of using the perlite layer, I insure the roots receive nutrients evenly throughout the mix, and by adding additional perlite to the soil mix also achieve the necessary aeration. The best of both worlds.

Second, one of the best growers in our area swears perlite is poison to violets, and instead, uses Styrofoam beads. Like perlite, the beads do not break down and provide decent aeration. However, they are extremely difficult to use because they're susceptible to all sorts of undesirable behaviors caused by static electricity. Anyway, for years I have hunted for information that would support his contention regarding

perlite's toxicity. Several years ago, I read such an article, I believe in a very old *AVM*, stating that perlite attracted and held salts to a great degree. (alas, despite my best efforts, I have been unable to relocate the article.) By putting a solid layer of perlite it would seem this layer would collect a lot of salt and which would not be healthy for the plant. The use of perlite throughout the mix would not provide such a concentrated area. Note: by repotting or leaching often, the salt buildup will be lessened in either scenario.

Yet curiosity gets the better of me, and I am re-experimenting with perlite at the bottom. Some of my precious acquisitions from convention have been planted into solo cups with holes punched in the side and a layer of perlite at the bottom. Some are directly matted, others wicked. Again, nothing to report yet so you'll have to wait for the verdict in a future column. In the meantime, I invite you to experiment, if you so fancy, and tell me of your results.

Lighten Up

One reader wishes to have a list of small ones that do well in natural lighting. If any of you wish to offer advice here, it is welcome. All mine are grown under lights, perhaps to my detriment. For now, may I suggest the Optimara Jewel and the Indian Summer series? The Holtkamps specialize in hybridizing for the average home grower, meaning, their plants do well on the windowsill. The Jewels are labeled micro-minis by them; we know them as minis. The Indian Summer series plants are called minis; we know them as semis. After having tried to grow them under lights with less than desirable results, I intend to try them in window light.

One other thought before we move on. Foliage that is very ruffled or girl foliage would do well with window light because both types tend to bunch in the center so tightly that light cannot reach their centers and hence, blooming is poor. Under window light, the centers should open up enough to yield better results. In the meantime, if you've had any success with window growing, send me a list of these varieties and we'll try to be of more help to our readers.

Finally, in the May issue, I discussed the idea of placing reflective or light colored material on the shelves underneath your plants to increase the availability of light to your plants. Darryl Hoover wrote an informative letter in response to this, stating this practice has led to disaster because the leaves curled under to avoid the strong light. I have not observed this in my collection, but again, remind you my lights are on for only eight hours a day. With increased hours, the turning under of leaves may become more of a problem. Again, food for thought! I invite your feedback on this issue as well!

A Bit On Bugs

Are you tired of seeing fungus gnats invade your violets? Here's an idea from Ralph Robinson for you: Let your soil dry out, but not to the point that your violet suffers. When you allow soil to dry slightly, the eggs laid by the gnats die and you're rid of a nasty problem. The problem is setting up a strict watering regimen and following it religiously.

A reader from Ohio contacted me, in desperate need of a remedy for soil mealy bugs. After conversing with her for a while, it became apparent that she was a knowledgeable and experienced grower; well versed in pests and pest control. She was greatly concerned that no one seemed to be addressing the problem, that it was pervasive, and that people are giving up the hobby because of it. I promised to address the issue for her, so here are my best thoughts:

Soil mealies, once contracted, are never rid of. Therefore, the best prevention is never to get them to begin with. Isolation of all new plants is critical in accomplishing this.

Let's try to understand the nature of the beast we're dealing with: mealies need a moist environment to exist, but only slightly moist. In Atlanta, at the "Let Me Tell You About My Violets" forum Thursday night, Dr. Cole pointed out a mealybug egg cannot thrive in an absolutely dry environment. But, add the slightest bit of moisture and it can survive for years. Thus, the ultimate cure is to allow your violets to dry up, hence, you have my best remedy: if you identify the problem of soil mealies in your collection it is best to dispose of the plant before the condition spreads. Remember, the male mealybug flies. And, if that's not enough to convince you of how rapidly the problem can spread, any fungus, gnat, fly or thrips which flies from plant to plant can carry insect eggs and diseases with it. I repeat, as soon as you identify a problem it is best to dispose of the plant.

An option is to take a leaf and put it down. Rinse it with mild alcohol or chlorox solution, at the very least. Mealy eggs can be anywhere. Be sure and isolate this leaf from others you might have been rooting. If, by chance it has mealies, your entire set of new plantlets will also be infected, and long before you know it.

If you choose to try to save the plant, there are several options available. Di-Syston 2% granules have worked for me in the past. On the small ones, 1/8th to 1/4 teaspoon is a great deal. This needs to be repeated at least every six weeks for several months to be completely effective. Follow the recommendations on the label for best results. A caveat: using this same treatment on my standards with a proportionally increased amount of Di-Syston never fully rid the plants of mealies. I believe this is a function of the amount of soil treated, the measure being so different in the small ones as compared to the standards.

I have heard of others having success with Malathion, Knox-out, and even dishwashing soap but, I cannot vouch for their success. All I can say is I used these treatments at one time, and found them to be unsatisfactory for one reason or another. DE could work, but only if you let your soil dry completely, and again, we're back to square one. Commercial enterprises have available to them additional alternatives and can afford more costly treatments. Again, I'll not recommend any of these for our home-based hobby.

Precious, Precious Pink

I have three theories regarding my statement that 'Precious Pink' refused to bloom in my environment. Joan

continued on page 41

Question Box

James Smith
1449 Paloma Lane
Dunedin, Florida 34698

Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

QUESTION: *I have carefully followed the "rule" for size of pot for growing African violets. A friend consistently over-pots. She often has a 2" plant in a 4" pot. She has phenomenal bloom success. Sometimes she has a peduncle starting up from plants still on the mother leaf. Is it possible we are mistaken in our belief that pots should be 1/3 the diameter of the plant?*

ANSWER: For the overall health and presentation, African violets do best and show best when the pot size is 1/3 the diameter of the foliage. For African violet shows, if the plant is considered over-potted, points will be deducted. A blooming peduncle sprouting from the mother leaf is not unusual, it only means that the growing environment for the plantlets is excellent!

QUESTION: *During the past year I have had three African violets suddenly wilt. Within a few days of putting some of the leaves in water, they revived. What would cause the sudden 'collapse' of my violets?*

ANSWER: When a plant suddenly wilts, the problem could be one of two reasons. First, did you check to see if the plant was over watered? Soil that is soggy, will destroy root systems very quickly. Let your plant dry out and then start watering again, this time gradually. Don't let African violets sit in water. Water only when the soil is dry to the touch. When you water, let the water run through the soil until it is saturated, then let the pot drain. Second, pull the plant from its pot and check the soil for any pests. Soil mealybug and nematodes will attack the root systems and cause crown rot. When you have crown rot, the plant is not able to absorb water and nutrients to sustain life. If you have either of these pests, throw the plant away. If you can salvage a leaf, wash it thoroughly with a mild soap (dish soap) before you plant it.

QUESTION: *Often when I have plantlets coming up from a variegated leaf, they are snow white and soon die off. I find this to be a real problem especially when the leaf cost me $1.25! I always use the greenest leaf possible. I would be grateful if you would address this in your column.*

ANSWER: The best suggestion that I can give is to start variegated leaves inside a covered tray and provide as much light as possible. Under these conditions, I have found that the most stubborn of leaves do just fine. The extra humidity seems to help. Use a fertilizer especially formulated for variegated varieties. Some variegated varieties need a fertilizer high in nitrogen which helps to 'green-up' the plantlets. It wouldn't hurt to foliar feed with the same solution. Foliar feed with fish emulsion fertilizer as this is a tremendous benefit. Sturdy and Bounty products are excellent.

QUESTION: *How can I prevent root nematodes? I get them once in awhile and I end up throwing the plant away.*

ANSWER: The insecticides required to eradicate the pests are too dangerous to use. They are too harsh and if used, the plant will never be the same again. You were wise to discard the plant. Nematodes live in the soil. There are many species of this pest. Using soil ingredients that are not properly sterilized, leads to more problems then just nematodes. There are many ways to protect your collection from this destructive pest. Never use soil from the yard. Unless it is sterilized, either by heat or chemical means, it will most likely contain the eggs of nematodes as well as other nasty creatures. Always use a commercially made soil. Check the advertisers within the AVM as their soil is safe to use. Always isolate new plants from your collection for at least three months. New plants should be potted into your own fresh soil as soon as they are brought home. Your fingers, the spout of a watering can, and poor culture practices can spread pests from one plant to another. Wash your hands thoroughly before touching other plants. Wash all pots and potting utensils with soap and hot water. Add a little bleach to the rinse water. Try to avoid community watering methods such as using mats. The convenience is great, but it only takes one infested plant to ruin your entire collection. As the water leaches from the pots, the water spreads through the mats to the other plants, and so does the pest. It is so important to isolate new plants and to pot them into your own fresh, clean

soil as soon as possible. Buy plants from reliable AVSA commercial members. Most of these people go through routine inspections to make sure they are free from any insects. Other insects are more easily controlled, while nematodes are too destructive and difficult to eradicate. If your plant starts to wilt, but not from over watering, inspect the root system. If there are lumpy nodules present, suspect root nematodes. There are also foliar nematodes. Look for swollen petioles, especially at the base. With an infestation of nematodes, it is best to discard the plant.

QUESTION: *Are there any books on African violets that you would recommend?*

ANSWER: I have been asked this question several times. There are so many from which to choose. In the advertisement section of the AVM, there are several commercials who list books of interest to violet hobbyists. One book that I feel especially fond of is Pauline Bartholomew's, 'Growing To Show'. It is an excellent manual for the experienced as well as for the novice grower. I refer to it often. Another is Anne Tinari's, 'Our Violet Heritage'. This book is full of interesting stories about the history of African violets. It also gives an anecdotal account of the beginning of AVSA. It's like a who, what, when, where, and why book with a lot of personal charm. One other choice is Melvin Robby's, 'African Violets; Gifts From Nature'. This book gives the reader an in-depth study concerning the care and culture of African violets. This is a highly recommended book. If you have other favorites, write to me. Please provide the title, author, place of purchase, and a brief synopsis of the book. I will compile a list and forward it on to our AVSA librarian.

QUESTION: *Some of my violets have very hard and brittle leaves. Some of the leaves even develop cracks. What would cause this and how can this condition be prevented?*

ANSWER: This question was received without a complete description of the growing environment. This description is necessary and helpful in diagnosing the problem. From my experience, hard and brittle leaves are caused by too much fertilizer and rich soil conditions. The cracking can be the result of this condition. Consistent cold or long light exposure can also cause hard and brittle leaves. The solution would be to cut back on the fertilizer and provide some warmth to the growing area, and provide no more than 9 to 10 hours of light (if growing under fluorescent lights).

The name of the columnist replying is in bold print.

Coming Events

November - 1 & 2 - NORTH CAROLINA
Green Thumb AVS Sale
Tarrytown Mall, Bus. 64 & US 301, Rocky Mount, NC
Both days: 10am - 8pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

November 1 - 3 - MINNESOTA
Minnesota AVS Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall (Snelling Ave & Cty. B, just S. of Hwy 36)
Nov 1 - 10am - 9pm, Nov 2 - 10am - 6pm, Nov 3 - noon - 5pm
Info: Donna Tobin (612) 426 - 4868

November 1-3 - GEORGIA
AVC of Greater Atlanta Annual Show/Sale
Outlet Square Mall, Atlanta, GA
Info: Joan Cumpton (912) 922 - 8362

November 2 & 3 - NEW JERSEY
TriState AV Council Judged Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ
Nov 2 - 1:30pm - 5pm, Nov 3 - 10am - 4pm
Info: David Tooker (908) 583 - 9568

November 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT
Nutmeg State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Days Inn, Exit 55, I-95, Branford, CT
Oct 26 - 1pm - 5pm, Oct 27 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (203) 926 - 9716

November 14 - 16 - VIRGINIA
Mid Atlantic AVS Convention, Show/Sale
Holiday Inn, 39th St and Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA
Info: Carol Van (757) 851 - 2543

December 6 - 7 - FLORIDA
Gulf AVC, Display/Sale
Ft. Myers-Lec Co. Garden Council Building.
2646 Cleveland Avenue, Ft. Myers
Info: Lillian Scott (914) 542-9193

January 17 - 19 - MISSOURI
7th Annual St. Louis Flower Show
America's Center, downtown St. Louis
Info: Barb Kemery (314) 569-3117

In Search of New Violets

Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306

Are you considering hybridizing? Do you need some ideas on what to breed for? What types of traits do growers want to see in new plants? I have a short list of traits and ideas for your consideration. The list was put together based on conversations during the Atlanta convention and from the gesneriphiles electronic mail group.

1. Plants that are disease and pest resistant.
2. Plants with new colors such as orange or pure yellow.
3. Plants that can grow well in colder or warmer temperatures.
4. A trailer with mosaic variegation.
5. Flowers with a scent.

Q: *Is there some way to speed up the maturation of the seed pod so you don't have to wait 4-6 months?*

A: I have heard reports where hybridizers have removed the seed pod three months after making a cross, dried it out, and planted the seed. In some cases, a few seedlings were reported to grow. This method may save you a little time over the usual 4-6 months needed for the seed pods to mature, but I'm not sure the saving of one month is worth the low germination rate of the seeds. If the seed pod has been on 4-5 months, then perhaps harvesting and drying the seed pod will speed things up a little.

I have tried removing the seeds earlier than three months and growing them on an agar medium with hormones, such as that used for plant tissue culture. None of my efforts ever succeeded. I don't think you can rush Mother Nature.

Q: *Are there African violet hybrids that are naturally male or female sterile?*

A: The use of plants that are male or female sterile is an important hybridization technique in many crop plants. In corn, for example, the use of male sterile plants prevents self-pollination and speeds the development of hybrid corn. Since African violets don't usually self-pollinate, the male sterile hybrids are not needed for plant breeding.

Many cultivars that have full double flowers have difficulty producing anthers with pollen. This is because the double petal trait (a genetic dominant) converts all the stamens to petals. These cultivars are effectively male sterile. In extreme cases, the pistil will also be petal-like and will not function. This combination may effectively make plants with double flowers either male sterile or full sterile.

If you really want or need to cross with a plant that has double flowers, keep trying and watch the smaller side blooms. These may not express the double petal trait in full and will have a better chance for normal reproductive parts. The double petal trait made hybridizers consider 'Tommie Lou' sterile for many years, but just look where persistence got us in that case!

Q: *Have all possible crosses with the species plants been made?*

A: To the best of my information, no, they have not. About 14 of the species have been fully crossed with each other in all combinations. The remaining 6-8 species have not been crossed at all or have only had some possible crosses made. Most of the species have not been crossed with today's cultivars either. Those that have include: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *S. grotei*, *S. magungensis* var. *minima*, and *S. velutina*. There are a large number of potential crosses with the species that have yet to be made and studied.

One interesting characteristic of genus *Saintpaulia* is that there are few, if any, genetic barriers to crosses between the species. Almost every cross will take, although crosses with *S. shumensis* and *S. nitida* are sometimes reluctant to set seed pods.

Q: *How many chromosomes do African violets have and*

what happens to the growth of the plant if the number of chromosomes is changed?

A: All African violets have a base chromosome number of 15. Most plants have two sets of chromosomes and have a total number of 30. Amazon plants, such as *S. grotei* Amazon have four sets of chromosomes or 60 total. A few plants have been reported that have three sets of 45 chromosomes.

Plants that have three or four sets of chromosomes have larger leaves and flowers than plants with two sets. They also grow more slowly and flower less frequently. The flowers, however, tend to last longer.

Scientists have also produced plants that have a single set of 15 chromosomes. These plants have smaller than usual leaves and grow poorly. These plants are scientific curiosities and would not be normally seen by most growers.

Q: *Do African violets have any lethal genes such as some animals do?*

A: Lethal genes are those that are fatal to the organism in the homozygous or purebred condition. The only examples I can confirm are some of variegated leaves. In extreme cases the plant is prevented from making any chlorophyll to feed itself by photosynthesis. This condition is fatal to the plant.

Q: *Will it be possible to map the chromosomes of African violets such as is being done with the Human Genome Project?*

A: The Human Genome Project is already mapping the chromosomes of a plant; a mustard known as *Arabidopsis*. This plant is serving as a chromosome representative for the plant kingdom. The things learned from mapping this plant are already being applied to several important crop plants. The techniques would be applicable to African violets, but I doubt that violets will rank high on the priority list for mapping.

AVSA Booster Fund

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM JUNE 1ST - JULY 31ST

The Pied Pipers, St. Louis, MO	10.00
Dorothy Kosowsky, Whittier, CA	25.00
The Late Bloomers AVC, Monroe, WI	5.00
Lucille Oase, Pleasanton, CA	10.00
Ann Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL	10.00
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council	20.00
Crosstown AVC, Madison, WI	15.00
AVS of Springfield, Delaware County, PA	50.00
Happy 50th Birthday AVSA!	
Spring Branch AVC, Houston, TX	25.00
Metropolitan St. Louis AVC	25.00
On behalf of Lincoln AVS for sale of culture books	
Long Island AVS, Long Island, NY	10.00
Baltimore AVC, Baltimore, MD	30.00
In lieu of Judge's expenses for Libby Benke, Pat Webber & Angeline Celano	
Walter J. Golba, Jr., South Hadley, MA	20.00
Dot & Frank Burton, Old Saybrook, CT	100.00
In fond memory of Grace Foote, a beloved personal friend and a tireless perfectionist as Editor of the AVM	
First AVS of Spartanburg, SC	15.00
Total	**$370.00**

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • c/o AVSA Office
2375 North • Beaumont, TX 77702

Donations received from May 20, 1996 - July 20, 1996:

The Pied Pipers AVS, St. Louis, MO	10.00
June O'Neill, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	10.00
In memory of Peg Rios	
Long Island AVS, Freeport, NY	25.00
Gulf AV Club, Cape Coral, FL	10.00
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In lieu of a speaker's fee to Bob Keiter of Waterloo Gardens	
Thousand Oaks AVS, Thousand Oaks, CA	15.00
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Spring Branch AVC, Houston, TX	10.00
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In memory of Mrs. Ona Higgason	
Alicia O. Javier, Philippines	20.00
Genola B. Cox, Naples, FL	25.00
The Late Bloomers AVC, Monroe, WI	5.00
Ray & Dorothy Galvin, Houston, TX	25.00
AVS of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI	25.00

Registration Report

Iris Keating
149 Loretto Ct.
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs $1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00. Registration of the plant is $5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then $4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

REGISTRATIONS

Patt Harris - Santa Clara, CA

*TINY RAMBLIN' SILVER (8466) 6/7/96 (Harris/Sorano) Double white pansy. Variegated green and yellow, glossy. **Miniature trailer**

*****

Yvon Decelles-Boucherville, Quebec, Canada

*DECELLES' CORALIA (8467) 6/15/96 (Y. Decelles) Single coral sticktite pansy. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

*DECELLES' FLAMINGO (8468) 6/15/96 (Y. Decelles) Single red sticktite star/white edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

*****

Kay Hobbs-Gregg - San Antonio, TX

*DEAN'S SWEETHEART (8469) 6/28/96 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single wine-red sticktite pansy. Variegated green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**

*****

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

*ACA'S PINK PET (8470) 7/5/96 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy. **Miniature**

*ACA'S TORNADO (8471) 7/5/96 (J. Brownlie) Semi-double red star. Variegated green and white. **Standard**

*DAPHNE'S CHILD (8472) 7/5/96 (J. Brownlie) Double red pansy/thin white edge. Variegated green and white, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

*KINKY PINKY (8473) 7/5/96 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink pansy/green edge. Variegated green and white. **Semiminiature**

*****

Michael Jackson - Bessemer, AL

*PATRIOT'S HEIDI (8474) 7/15/96 (M. Jackson) Double pink ruffled star. Mosaic variegated green and white, pointed, quilted, ruffled, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

*****

Wayne Geeslin - Houston, TX

*FRANCES McCOWN (8475) 7/18/96 (W. Geeslin) Single lavender sticktite frilled pansy/darker eye, reddish purple-tipped upper petals. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, quilted/red back. **Large**

*****

Hortense Pittman - San Antonio, TX

*LITTLE PRIZE (8476) 7/29/96 (H. Pittman) Single white sticktite/pink eye. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

*MARION'S ENCHANTED TRAIL (8477) 7/29/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble medium blue. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

*DAISY'S DELIGHT **(8389)** Single chimera pink pansy/**purple fantasy stripe, markings.**

NAME RESERVATONS

Barbara Werness - Coon Rapids, MN

* Sora Midnight Song * Sora Patty Ann * Sora Pink Sunrise

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674

When you join an African violet club, you take on a few commitments. The first is always keep your growing room clean. The house can fall down, have holes in the ceiling, and in general be a mess. Not so the plant room. The "girls" are coming next week and my plant room is a mess! Will have to get to it soon or go down in disgrace!

In response to the AVSA Most Wanted List a few more Vintage Violets have shown up. They are Cajun Cuisine, Fantasy in White, Gladys, Granger's Swiss Ballet, Love Spots, Mandolin, Merry Christmas, Moody Blues, Pink Blueberry, Rhapsodie Candy, Rococo Pink, Show Star, Violet Trail and a couple of Winston Smiths' Wranglers series: they are Wrangler's Blazing Saddles, Wrangler's Buckaroo Run, Wrangler's Ghost Riders, and Wrangler's Grizzly Bear. All totaled we now have 63 Wranglers on file. That's the way violet growers! Keep up the good work!

AVSA MOST WANTED LIST

- Betty's Cindy Darlene (this request comes from Betty's daughter, Cindy Darlene)
- Cotton Bowl
- Dates' Fanfare
- Fredette's Sweet Jenny
- Kay Russell
- Lithe Lassie
- Moonlight Mural
- Fredette's Sante Fe Trail

If anyone out there is growing some of Jimmy Date's plants, please let me know.

Don't forget to check past issues for other "wanteds" and to always remember to include a SASE and return the postage when you receive something in the mail.

Do Not Withhold the Secret!

Anne Tinari, Chairman
Membership
& Promotion

It's that time of year again when days grow short; chilly nights and threatening snows appear.

Once again it's holiday time. Our thoughts are occupied with the joy and anticipation of visiting with family, friends, and the selection of gifts for the special individuals in out lives.

A gift subscription to our beautiful AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE can solve your gift problem for anyone who enjoys growing African violets. The magazine is an appropriate, thoughtful gift that lasts a year. It keeps on giving with six colorful issues. The excellent articles written by our columnists appear in every issue. Many tips on care and culture to grow bigger and better African violets are expressed, as well as personal growing experiences. Research reports are most interesting and the many commercial advertisements shown, assist growers in getting acquainted and selecting products to enhance the art of growing beautiful African violets.

'Tis the season to bring joy into the lives of others!

We must not keep our society a secret, but introduce it to our neighbors, our friends and plant lovers all over the world! Give a gift subscription to someone you love. Introduce them to the joy and beauty of African violets with greetings for a happy holiday season.

Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

EVEN PARADISE ISN'T VIOLET-PERFECT!

In February of this year, we took the opportunity to escape from winter in Nebraska and travel to beautiful Hawaii, where we got to meet with the members of the **African Violet Society of Hawaii**. The Hawaiian islands really are a paradise...green landscapes with magnificent tropical flowers, beautiful vistas, fresh warm air, and friendly, gracious people (especially the club members). It should be a perfect place to grow violets. But even paradise isn't perfect.

Any avid violet grower who has experienced power outages in the middle of extreme summer heat or bitter winter cold, as well as any grower who faces dry desert air or sweltering ultra-humid air, may well like to imagine that some places may be just perfect for growing show-worthy violets. If you are one who dreams of such a place, don't imagine Hawaii.

Club Officers - AVS of Hawaii (left to right) Dave Nakashima, Gwen Shigekane, Hector Wong, Alice Satsuma, Ethel Spurlin, Roseline Fujimori, Joyce and Kent Stork and Itsuko Ishimoto. Taken at President Gwen Shigekane's home where meeting was held in February 1996.

We have often stressed in this column how different climates call for different techniques in African violet culture. For the most part, in each violet club across the country all of the members share the same climate, and so they do have reasonably similar growing conditions. However, on each of the Hawaiian islands there are widely varying micro-climates. So, even though the AVS of Hawaii is made up of members who all live on the island of Oahu, they do not all share the same climate.

Higher altitudes have lower temperatures than do coastal areas. Parts of the islands receive abundant rain, while other parts are semi-arid (with cactus!). The northern sides of the islands are typically moist, while the southern shores are warmer and drier. Growers have many different obstacles to overcome, depending on where they live.

Beautiful and inviting as Hawaii is, it is also very expensive to live there- out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. As a result, many homes and apartments do not have the climate controls so common elsewhere; no central heat and no air conditioning, and they don't really need them. Instead, there are lots of open windows to let in the soothing trade winds, affording great comfort to the residents but, meanwhile, allowing insects free access to the plants indoors.

Supplies and new, unusual African violets are certainly not as readily available as they are to growers here in the middle of the country. Grocery stores carry a few violets shipped over from the mainland, but the variety is limited and the price is easily three times more than what we might

expect to see here. Soil mixes, pesticides, pots, fertilizers, etc., must all be transported across the ocean. It makes for high cost and limited choice.

Why are we sharing this information in a beginners column? Because once you begin to gain a little experience growing African violets, you soon learn that your violets look so much better with the right care. When it comes right down to it, paradise is in the hands of the grower.

Let's look at some of the challenges facing those who are growing violets in Hawaii and how they attempt to solve some of their problems. There should be lessons for anyone striving to grow violets in trying locations.

TROPICAL HEAT

Tropical islands usually have fairly mild temperatures, but it is not impossible for the winter season to cool below 50 degrees (Fahrenheit) or for the summer season to heat into the 90's. People can adjust their clothing whether it's warm or cool, but violets are not comfortable at either extreme.

The coldest time of the year in Hawaii is usually of short duration. If windows are closed to keep cool winds out, the sunshine streaming in will usually keep interiors somewhat warm until temperatures improve. **Ethel Spurlin**, who lives at, perhaps, the highest elevation among the Hawaiian AVS members, occasionally does have to resort to using her fireplaces to heat her home. But, she has had good success in growing her violets with good, attentive care. She normally does not have to deal with the higher temperatures found nearer the coast.

Heat can last much longer and be far more challenging. AVS of Hawaii members have found a number of ways to cope. Some, especially those who live in Honolulu apartments, do have air conditioning. Their plants survive the summer heat pretty well. But, others enjoy the open air and the tropical breezes. Their homes are constructed with virtually no insulation, because they don't really need it, and with few barriers between themselves and the great outdoors. Since the Hawaiian air, laced with trade winds, feels so good most of the time, even the most luxurious hotels there are constructed with open-air lobbies. Air conditioners in homes are not common and can be mighty expensive to operate.

Hector Wong, who lives in an apartment without air conditioning, concentrates mostly on growing trailing violets along with some standards. He has successfully grown show-quality plants. Having lived in Peru before moving to Honolulu, he observes that a lighter soil mix is necessary when growing in the humidity he experiences in Hawaii.

Most growers without temperature controls simply accept that their plants will suffer in the heat with fewer flowers, softer, less sturdy leaves, and a more open pattern of growth. But, several are using evaporative systems to cool the growing manually. It is done on the principle that energy (heat) is consumed when water molecules move from a liquid state to a gaseous state. The result is that the more evaporation there is, the more cooling results.

Bob Chisari, who lives in a house with a magnificent view of the ocean on the north side of Oahu, is one of those who has found a method to deal with the warmth of his lowland locations. He has had great success with the use of double potting. Bob fills a broad clay pot with wet sphagnum moss; then, digging an adequate hole in the middle of the moss, he sets in a smaller clay pot containing one of his lovely African violets. The evaporative cooling from the wet sphagnum keeps his violets at more comfortable temperatures.

THE SAME EVERYWHERE

In spite of the differences, African violet growers in Hawaii do some things the same as any one else. We saw violets growing both in natural and artificial light and they looked much like any mainlander collection (until you looked out the window and saw hedges of blooming orchids and other exotic plants and flowers).

Watering was done in similar ways as well. There were both capillary matting and wicking (which aid in the evaporative cooling process), as well as plants which were watered individually. The Hawaiian water supply is generally ample and tastes very good. It is available as a result of the regular rain that falls on the mountains and then collected for both agricultural and domestic use.

It appears that soil mixes and fertilizer products are much the same as those used elsewhere in the United States. Violet club members often have these shipped in from mainland sources. They do fight many of the same insects as everyone else. Flower thrips, cyclamen mites, and mealy bugs are a constant irritation, especially with the lack of barriers between the outside growing areas and the violets inside.

Fungus is a huge challenge as well. For many at lower elevations, the humidity is very high. Fans must be run constantly to keep air circulating. Quiet air would permit mildew and other fungus diseases to multiply quickly.

You might ask what attracts people living in such a tropical locale, to African violets, especially because so many colorful, spectacular flowers grow so commonly outdoors. Like anyone else they are drawn to the special beauty of a plant that will put on a show indoors. And besides, when you think about it, most tropical plants bloom in all sorts of brilliant electric colors, not in the blues, pinks, lavenders and purples that beautiful violets give us.

One last similarity we found to African violet clubs everywhere...they love food! It may look a little different with colorful trays of sushi, gooey purplish poi and favorite

continued on page 23

Honeymoon With Violets

by Kazuo Horikoshi
Tokyo, Japan

This year, about thirty Japanese people attended the African Violet Society of America's Fiftieth convention in Atlanta, Georgia. We enjoyed the beautiful show, banquet, presentation by Dr. Charles Cole, and the Saturday luncheon with the new introduction slides.

Ken-ich and Saki Okishita of Japan. Kazuo Horikoshi, the author, sent this photo and article as a wedding gift for the newlyweds.

A young couple from Japan, Ken-ich and Saki Okishita, enjoyed their first convention very much. In Japan, we have the African Violet Club on the E-mail network. Both Ken-shi and Saki are members and knew each other through E-mail. They met at our society show, which was held in November 1995, fell in love and decided to get married.

As they were reading the African Violet Magazine and my report of the 1995 AVSA convention, they had a dream of participating in the next AVSA national convention. That dream came true.

It is difficult for employees of companies to take long stretches of time off, so they arranged for their honeymoon to coincide with the 1996 convention in Atlanta. What a good idea! After enjoying Disneyworld in Florida, they came to Atlanta and were surprised to see such a beautiful show.

It was so enjoyable that they are planning to attend the St. Petersburg convention in Florida. So if you meet them there next year, please say "Hello" to this happy couple!

'Twas the Night Before Show Time

By Eva M. Sale, Vancouver BC, Canada

'Twas the night before show time when all through the hall
Not a member was sleeping - no one at all.
The tables were ready with covers and cards
For the plants to be placed and watched by the guards.
The members were busy doing their duties
And all the while ooh-ing and aah-ing at beauties;
And I, with my schedule, and Mary, with her bag,
Had just looked around to see who we could nag!
When out in the entry there arose such a cry
We sprang to attention to see who was nigh . . .
And there at the doorway was a cute little trick
Yelling "Come help me - and please! Do be quick!
I've too many violets and might drop one or two;
Get me a helper - anyone will do."
On came the helpers, on, on they came,
And she giggled and thanked them and thought it a game.
Here Marjorie, Harold, and I know Daphne will
Put them on tables and chairs if you must
And enter them carefully, be thoughtful and just!
The master list pages were flipping like mad
In search of violet names, good and bad;
Entries clerks writing as fast as they could,
With placement dashing and placing so good
In no time at all we were ready for more,
And sure enough - there were some more at the door.
Now this went on until all was done
The working force laughed and said it was fun!
Tomorrow the judges take over the work
They'll lop off points with never a smirk.
With a mark on a leaf, or a too big a pot
Your chance to be queen you think is all hot;
But wait- that ribbon is BLUE - look there
And by jove! there's a flag 'way up in the air!
And you laugh when you see it in spite of yourself
You considered you should have left THAT on the shelf!
Judging is over; ribbons in their places;
The clerks are counting - with smiles on their faces.
It's time for lunch, but there's the crowd at the door
Clambering to get in to see what's in store.
And I heard them exclaim as they pushed and they shoved
"Happy is the violeter when his violets are loved!"

Reprinted with permission from "Chatter", journal of the AVS of Canada

Two Hundred, All to Give Away

by Hal McKain, PhD
Lamoni, IA

There is a lot of joy in receiving, but there is even more in giving. Each week I average giving away four, healthy blooming African violet plants. And, of course, I have to start four more!

There are many wonderful articles written on how to raise and show African violets. This article may be unique; it's my technique for giving them away.

Needless to say, African violets make wonderful, inexpensive gifts. In my three years of growing African violets, I have only purchased one of these wonderful plants. It was a surprise gift for my wife. And yes, it was a hit! All of the other plants I have grown have come from cuttings from friends.

My work at Graceland College provides a great place for my "give-aways". I conduct drawings for students, workers, and even churchgoers. People see the plant I have on display and can sign up for the drawing. Other give-aways are conducted for friends and family. My motto is, "when they bloom, give them away."

I am going on three years as a member of AVSA. The African Violet Magazine gives excellent tips on how to raise healthy plants. The informative articles make it possible to help most every recreational grower.

When I give away a plant, I also include a note on basic African violet care and a half-gallon (milk carton) of 15-30-15 fertilized water. Then, to help them the most, I have on the bottom of the note, "when the plant does not look good, return to Hal". The last thing I do is brace them for the possible death of an African violet. I write, "My joy in giving you this plant, and your joy in receiving it, is sealed. On this point, its living or dying has no effect." This is for the peace of mind of people with a "brown thumb".

Hal McKain

In retirement, this has been a fantastic hobby. One of the happy recipients expressed what seems to be the general feeling expressed; "Giving is what life is all about."

Every issue of the AVM helps me grow better African violets. I also find advice on making my thumb look a little more green! The best advice I can give to new African violet growers is, "read the African Violet Magazine!"

And, in response to the question, "Is successful flower care a science or an art?", I feel that since science is knowing the facts and art is figuring out how to apply the facts in diverse situations, we need as much as we can get of both!

Since every good religion or creed emphasizes "giving", I trust African violet owners will do their share! It is fantastic!

Gelatin As Fertilizer

Gelatin is a colloid from which a jelly is made. It is made by boiling bones, hoofs, and animal tissues, or from vegetable substances. We make desserts from the tasteless substance by adding flavoring and boiling water, then letting the jelly get cold. We like it, but so do house plants.

It makes an excellent fertilizer in the form of a time-release nitrogen that invigorates and makes your gesneriad a lustrous green. You can look to the potting medium to supply phosphorous, potassium, and trace elements. If nitrogen is already provided by the fertilizer you provide, this element is highly mobile. It is readily leached out or volatilized into the air. So, a little gelatin (extra nitrogen) won't hurt.

Knox gelatin (product made from bone, skin and ligaments) was tested over 2 years ago using 49 plant species and found that gelatin is, in fact, a very satisfactory source of nitrogen. It is adequate for healthy growth, there is little evidence of nutritional imbalance, it is difficult to overdose with gelatin, and gelatin fits within the cost range of other sources of nitrogen available to amateur indoor gardeners. It is best used in liquid form - one packet to a quart of water (dissolve first in hot water, then add rest of cold water). Apply once a month.

Its being organic, careless use by a horticulturally unskilled grower would have less damaging effects than most artificial nutrients.

Gelatin is converted to plant food when enzymes break up the protein, and bacteria convert it to nitrogen. Within 3 to 4 days the chlorific (yellow, nitrogen-starved) plants "green up" and become healthy as the roots take up nitrogen. So give it a try if you have yellow leaves.

Reprinted with permission from "Violets AGrowing" publication of Cape AVS, South Africa

A SUCCESSFUL *Solution*

by Judy Criswell, President
AVS of Springfield, Delaware County, PA

In the May/June 1996 issue of the AVM, in an article titled, "Found: A Solution to a Problem", AVS of Springfield member, Mildred Knorr, related the problems her club had encountered with declining membership. Their innovative solution was to organize an evening branch of the club. Now, after more than a year, club president Judi Criswell reports on their success.

HURRAH! HURRAH!

We, the African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, have accomplished that which we set out to do this past year; develop an on-going solution to our declining membership.

We are becoming an evening society after having completed forty-eight years of holding our meetings in the mornings. This was a very difficult decision but necessary and rewarding. In September, 1996, we are uniting our year old evening group with the Mother group. Some of the Society's rewards for having developed the evening group have been enthusiastic new members who wish to learn about and grow violets, and gesneriads. Proof has been in the number of ribbons won at their first show this past spring, and the enthusiasm and willingness of the more experienced members to help, guide, and inform the novices in developing their new passion. What more can a club ask for?

Unfortunately, we have lost a few members to our Inactive Membership List - a normal procedure with passing years. Some have moved away, some can no longer drive at night, and some members just fade away.

With the dedication of the members, both experienced and new, I am a very lucky lady. I have been appointed President of the Society for a second term and with the wonderful officers and members of our Society we can only continue to improve and enrich the Springfield group. Who could possibly not want to be heading up such a positive organization?

In April, 1997, we will be entering our fiftieth year of growing and loving violets and meeting and developing new devotees of the African violet. We have found that when you need changes because of "this or that," it can be worked out with positive results each time. We know the secret... unselfishness and dedication of the membership. No one can do it alone, it has to be a group project. It's a "WE, NOT A ME," effort and with this in mind you have no choice but to enjoy success. Wish us well as we approach our fiftieth year!

JUDGING YOUR OWN TERRARIUM

BY CATHY CORNIBE
SANTA CRUZ, CA

You can evaluate your own terrarium much better after you know what AVSA Judges look for in a terrarium.

AVSA SCALE OF POINTS FOR TERRARIUMS:

Landscape Plan	40 points
Suitability of materials	20 points
Condition of materials	20 points
Cultural perfection	10 points
Relation of container	10 points

- Landscape plan:
  Does it create a "miniature scene" to help portray the class theme? Is the soil varied in height to create interest? Has the overall effect of an established planting been achieved? Do the materials have a contrast of texture, size, color and height?
- Suitability of materials:
  Would these plants be compatible when grown together? (For example, cacti should not be in a terrarium with a violet.) If accessories are used, are they appropriate?
- Condition of materials::
  Is the terrarium clean and free of scratches? Are the plants properly groomed?
- Cultural perfection:
  Are the plants well-grown and free of pests and diseases? Do the African violets have a reasonable amount of bloom?
- Relation to container:
  Is the size and amount of planted material in proportion to the terrarium?
- AVSA Judges keep the following rules in mind:
  No cut material is permitted in a terrarium. All plants must be planted in the terrarium. A terrarium needs a cover (usually glass).

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MVL©

Seventh Edition Available in November

The Master List of Species and Cultivars© (known as the MVL©) is a copyrighted document provided by AVSA for use by its members. AVSA is the International Registration Authority for the genus *Saintpaulia* (African violet), as designated by the Council of the International Society for Horticulture Science.

The MVL© contains approximately 13,000 plant descriptions and registration data. It is intended as a tool for classifying, judging, and exhibiting African violets, not as an advertising tool. The description format is explained in the MVL© Legend, p. iv.

Each edition lists all registered cultivars from the inception of registration February 25, 1949, through December of the current year, and all recognized species. Unregistered cultivars appearing in the 1983 edition and in succeeding supplements are included. No cultivar has been deliberately deleted from the MVL© since 1983.

Supplements to the MVL© appear in the AVM November/December issue. An all-inclusive hard copy edition is printed every third year or as supply dictates. A computer diskette version is also available. These forms of the MVL© and the Plant Registration Chairman's AVM reports are authorized and copyrighted by AVSA, Incorporated.

The 1996 edition of the MVL© contains revised species descriptions. The AVSA Board of Directors authorized Dr. Jeff Smith to update the species descriptions and act as a taxonomy advisor when plants are proposed as new species. A committee chaired by former AVSA President and MVL© Compiler Mary Boland was also authorized by the Board to help modify these species descriptions.

To assure cultivar description accuracy, all data must be provided by the hybridizer, legal heir or designee. Hybridizers worldwide are encouraged to send their lists by June 30 each year for inclusion in the annual supplements. Hybridizers who wish to register their cultivars should contact Plant Registration Chairman, Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711 (Ph/FAX: 909-624-2314).

The computer version of the MVL© is on a 3.5-inch diskette, 1.4 Mbytes, "universal" for IBM- and Mac-compatible computers. It includes a DOS (PC only) program to search and display data. Data can be uploaded into most PC or Mac database, word processing, or spreadsheet programs. It comes with instructions and some help if needed. The annually updated diskette is released concurrently with the November/December AVM.

MVL© suggestions/additions/corrections are always appreciated.

"And the winners are..."

Ruth Goeke
4851 Pieper Road
Brenham, TX 77833

AVS OF GREATER NEW YORK, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Heavenly Notes, Jean, Fredette's Moonflower; Best in Show: Heavenly Notes; Best Design, **Rose Ghossn**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Desert Dawn, Fantasy Sprite, Ness' Angel Wings, **Ray Coyle**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby; Best Semiminiature: Dancing Teen; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Andrea Brown**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako'; Design Sweepstakes, **Helen Szymko**.

HOOSIER AVS, IN: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Blushing Ivory, Call Me Friend; Best in Show: Ode to Beauty; Best Trailer: Cherry Blossom Trail, **Steve Covolo**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Apatite; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Mad Cat; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Jean Willey**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Barbara Bicker**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Scarlet Sunset'; Best Design: **Lois Matusak**.

JEFFERSON AV, LA: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Super Duper, Tomahawk, Arapahoe; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Jim, Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Sno Fun, **Gail Borne**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Irish Kiss, Fantasy Splendor, Rhapsodie Dolly; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Radecker**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ethel Twiford, Rob's Taffy Pull, Rob's Hopscotch; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hopscotch; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Wynne Voorheeg**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Al & Genelle Armstrong**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Marjorie Blake**.

MILWAUKEE AVS, WI: Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnergreen, Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Whodunit; Best in Show: Julie B; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Whodunit, **Annie Berginc**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Winnergreen, Rob's Dust Storm; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal, Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marie Maas**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Marguerite Isbrandt**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Tinkerbells', **Joan Wilson**. Best Design: **Irene Merrell**.

STAMPEDE CITY AVS, CANADA: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Suncoast Paisley Print, Smokey Moon; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Cheers, Definitely Darryl; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust; Best Gesneriad: Episcia 'Silver Skies'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Gratto**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sunspot, Kid Karla, Ness' Satin Rose; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia*, **Maida Den Oudsten**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal, **Evelyn Tse**. Best Design, **Margaret Jarratt**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ingrid Nelson**.

SUSSEX ROYAL SAINTPAULIA/SAINT JOHN. N.B., CANADA: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Party Print, Susan Brooks; Best in Show: Candy Swirls; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Susan Brooks**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: My Chinook, Party Print, Anita Vivian; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula kizarae*; Best Gesneriad: Episcia 'Cleopatra'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jean Bell**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Match Point, **Sylvia Mitchell**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sherin Boyde**.

CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS & AVS OF ALBANY, NY: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cherry Brandy, Dusty Memory, ACA's Eye Knees; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Puddy Cat, Irish Flirt, **Susan Fraley**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Monkeyshines, Rob's April Storm, Snuggles Clown; Best Miniature: Rob's Cherry Soda; Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Califano**. Best in Show: Optimara Little Aztec; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Aztec, **Helen Tanski**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Rising Sun', **Esther Mason**. Design Sweepstakes, **Vincent Ozimek**.

EDMONTON AVS, CANADA: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blushing Ivory, Ward Brown, Pink Cameo; Best AVSA Mini!Semi Collection: Rob's Denim Demon Rob's Artful Dodger, Rob's Shadow Magic, **Joanna McDonald**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Seedling—Helen Betty Osborne; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Eros**. Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper; Design Sweepstakes, **Lil Bowes**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Linda Weiner**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Ember Lace', **Doreen Smith**. Best Design, **Tina Cho**.

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA.: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lady Blue, ACA's Lucky Lady, Coral Kiss; Best in Show: Wrangler's Savage Fury; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Byron Borck**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Dumplin', Desir; Best Semiminiature: Sassy Shirley, **Heather Borck**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Madeline Taube**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Tinkerbells', **Gary Beck**. Best Design, **Janet Fox**. Design Sweepstakes, **Maria Brooks**.

PARMATOWN AVC, OH: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, L'Ambassadeur, Chiffon Maritime Variegated; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Rob's Gal Vikki, Winnergreen; Best in Show: Chiffon Maritime Variegated; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heebie Jeebie; Best Design, **Marian Tisdale**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Optimara Barbados, Happy Cricket; Best Blooming Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Jiminy Cricket'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Bell**. Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Tracy Lorence**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Non-Blooming Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Linda Neumann**. Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Tisdale/Sister Irenea**.

AVS OF MINNESOTA, MN: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Antonia, Optimara Molokai; Best Species: Saintpaulia ionancha, **Ruth Bann**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Lisa, Powwow, Ocean Eyes; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Monkeyshines; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Design Sweepstakes, **Palma Trapp**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeyman, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Definitely Darryl; Best Trailer: Falling Snow, **Kathy Lahti**. Best in Show: Optimara Trinidad, **Faith Drewianka**. Best Design, **Jane Donaho**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann**.

GLENVIEW/NORTH SHORE AVS, IL: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Celeste, Rain Man; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shy Blue, Rob's Pinky Winky, Ness' Firefly; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Firefly; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Tom Moore**. Best Trailer: Perk Up, **Sue Schroeder**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Toy Silver', **Barbara Goodsell**. Best Design: **Pat Shike**.

TORONTO AVS, CANADA: Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Saintpaulia brevipilosa, Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea, Saintpaulia nitida; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Irish Flirt, Rob's Hopscotch; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Betty Tapping**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Mini Papa, Irish Flirt; Best Miniature: Pleasing Gal; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Lane**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia cardinalis*, **Emma Bygott**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

"Paradise" continued from page 17

tropical foods, but it is wonderful to share food and violets no matter where you are. On an outing with several club members one evening to a local restaurant, we were thankful to have Ethyl and Bob serve as "tour guides" at the buffet, identifying foods that weren't familiar to a couple of Nebraskans!

UN-COMMON PROBLEMS SOLVED WITH FRIENDSHIP

We hope that most of you have at least one violet friend with whom you can talk when things go wrong. The Hawaiian AVS members struggle because even though they are friends and love violets, they live in such different circumstances within the confines of the island of Oahu. We know that there are AVSA members on the big island of Hawaii, but transportation between islands is a lot trickier than just hopping in your car and going. Isolation makes it much more difficult to enjoy the hobby of African violets!

In some ways the islanders are far wiser than mainlanders because club members have shared such varying problems. Some have air that is too dry and have to add humidity. Others have so much humidity that evaporative cooling is less effective and they fight mildew constantly. Some grow with fluorescent lights while others have problems with intense sunlight bleaching their foliage. Some can afford to correct nearly every problem, but most just want to enjoy violets as economically as possible.

Our magazine tries to educate its readership with treatment for the most common pests. But the islands have pests that most of us never see affecting our violets. We saw damage from leaf thrips which chew paths across foliage. Mites (in several varieties) are very common as are the irritating chewing roaches. Finally, the problems that violets have are often not familiar to the agricultural experts of the islands. They are far more knowledgeable about agricultural crops like sugar cane, coffee, and pineapples, or about the myriad of tropical blooming plants. When a puzzling violet problem develops, they try but often cannot help.

A few Hawaiian growers are temporary residents because they are in the military. Their mainland expertise is challenged by the island climate and lack of violet supplies. For some, it takes time to find the AVS of Hawaii to get advice. By that time they are expecting to be transferred elsewhere. Out military growers have to be the very flexible!

Truly, the best answers to the mixture of unusual problems are found when the group discusses it and works on solutions together.

COST FACTORS

A vast majority of the things needed for daily living in Hawaii is shipped in from somewhere else. A joke on the island of Kauai says that whenever you hear the sound of emergency sirens it is because another tourist has just seen the price of breakfast cereal in a grocery store.

Energy must be produced on the islands to provide the needed electricity, but it is primarily generated by using oil that must be shipped from somewhere else. Consequently, they must pay higher electrical rates than most of us are used to.

Unfortunately, a number of Hawaii's residents often struggle to earn an adequate income. Many are older retired people who benefit from the climate, but have limited resources. Newly arrived military families are often shocked by the high cost of living. Most Hawaiians have learned to make compromises in order to continue living there. For violet growers, this does mean resorting to some cutbacks. Very few suffer from the malady that mainland growers often have - more violets than room. Most seem to buy what they can afford to grow in the space that they have.

This also affects the club's ability to introduce the joy of violets to others. But then most anyone who belongs to a violet club knows what it is like when showtime comes and most members don't have many plants to enter in the show. However, for several years now, the members of the AVS of Hawaii have together, displayed a collection of African violets at the annual Honolulu Orchid Society show, presenting violets to an admiring public.

The club has several members who faithfully attend the national AVS convention, despite the distance, and who buy violets to take home and share. We were impressed by how knowledgeable the club members were about new varieties and treatments for problems.

GOING TO HAWAII?

While we took our trip in celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary, it was much enriched by our time spent with the African Violet Society of Hawaii. They are gracious hosts to growers who come to the island from any continent. If you are interested in visiting, the club meets on the last Saturday of each month, except December, usually in the potting shed at Foster Botanic Garden in Honolulu. We suggest you contact **Gwen Shigekane** (808-235-2398), **Ethel Spurlin** (808-623-4972), or **Helen Ackell** (808-545-7244), for more details as you plan your trip. Visiting violet clubs is a fun activity, no matter where you travel. Violet people are wonderful everywhere!

Plant materials being carried into and out of Hawaii are carefully monitored, and declarations must be filled out during your flight there. African violet plants are permitted entry as long as they are potted in soilless potting medium.

Finally, "mahalo" (thank you) to **Itsuko Ishimoto**, who personally took us to see the sights, and also to each of the members of the **AVS of Hawaii** who made Paradise perfect for us!

Where The Breezes Blow

by Barbara Matthews
Tampa, FL

"Trade Winds - The nearly constant winds that dominate most of the tropics and subtropics throughout the world, blowing mainly from the northeast in the northern hemisphere..."

– Random House Dictionary

Does that definition bring to mind the image of a clipper ship under full sail, running ahead of the wind on a high sea? Well, hold onto your hats, because we are about to embark on an adventure that will bring a whole new meaning to the words "Trade Winds."

Picture being surrounded by lush tropical foliage, brilliant flowers, and graceful white swans paddling lazily on emerald green water. Feel soft breezes, catch a tantalizing whiff from an outdoor grill, listen to the softly rolling surf and the cries of seabirds. Put yourself in this picture and you have found **TradeWinds**, the site of the 1997 convention in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

This 18 acre gulf-front resort offers just about everything you could wish for and more. Add violets to the picture and you've made it complete!

The resort is a carefully arranged cluster of buildings and recreational areas, joined by brick walkways, wooden boardwalks, a meandering waterway, gardens and courtyards. Landscaping was designed so as not to disturb "Mother Nature." Salt-resistant and drought-tolerant native plants are widely used. There are over 200 palm trees of a dozen varieties and more than 70 different plants. Look for the sea hibiscus. Their flowers change from yellow in the morning to orange in the afternoon and red in the evening.

You will delight in the comfort of one of the resort's 577 luxuriously appointed rooms (including 207 suites). Admire the many amenities that include a coffee maker, toaster, refrigerator and hair dryer, then spend some time getting acquainted with your surroundings. Break out the beachwear and enjoy the informal atmosphere that is the trademark of the resort. Forgot to pack something? Trader Rick's and Breaker's Tropical Outfitters are both conveniently located on the premises.

A stroll on the beach could be next on the agenda. Velvety white sand underfoot, sparkling Gulf water, and a myriad of on-going beach activities introduce you to Florida's timeless sport, "Hitting the Beach." Splash along the water's edge or lounge in a cabana while checking out the beach action: Aquacycles to ride in the calm water; parasailing, kayaks, windsurfing, or catamarans for the more adventurous. Beach amenities include beach towels, an airhose to inflate your raft if you brought it, ice water and sand toys for the kids. For the ultimate luxury, try a beachside hammock.

If a quiet pool is more to your taste, there are four to choose from. All are heated, one is undercover, for relief from the midday sun, and the kiddie pool has shade umbrellas. Perhaps you would prefer the sauna, especially relaxing after a set of tennis on one of the five courts, or a game of racquetball.

Bicycle riders might want to try a paddleboat instead. Cruise the waterway at your own pace with a pair of swans or other waterfowl for company. Gondolas are available for a more leisurely trip.

Have a complete workout at the Body Works Fitness Center. Low-impact aerobics classes, massages and tanning beds are also available. And don't forget some personal pampering in the Body Works Salon where complete hair, nail and cosmetic services are offered.

After all that fresh air and exercise, hunger is sure to follow. Choose from nine food and drink venues, room service or cook it yourself on an outdoor grill.

The floating, permanently anchored, flying bridge offers a breezy, outdoor beachfront setting with a spectacular view. Great for breakfast, lunch, snacks or dinner.

Stock your refrigerator with goodies from the cleverly designed Pizza Hut Cafe that serves more than just pizza. Enjoy a meal there or take it with you.

Grab a quick breakfast or lunch at the Fountain Square Deli and enjoy it at a table in Fountain Square. Salty's Beach Bar is the solution when you're poolside or on the beach and longing for something "tall and cold." Sandwiches are served, too.

Casual indoor dining can be found at Bermuda's for breakfast, lunch or dinner. At Palm Court, for lunch or dinner you can choose from Italian or Mediterranean cuisine, indoors or on the patio.

And, yes! You can have a cookout with all the trimmings. Shop at the Fountain Deli or walk to a nearby grocery. Stock your refrigerator and cook it yourself. Several outdoor grills and picnic tables on quaint Picnic Island, are on the hotel grounds, for guest use.

Where's the action? Head for Reflections Piano Bar for relaxing entertainment. Drinks are served indoors, on the surrounding patios, and in the Victorian gazebos. At B.R. Cuda's, settle down into an "Island Time" atmosphere. Happy Hour lasts all afternoon with a "Little Bite" menu of finger foods and sandwiches. Late night revelers will find live entertainment and dancing after 9:00pm.

Family-friendly TradeWinds caters to all ages. Recreational staff members provide age-appropriate activities for toddlers to teenagers. There are some family-oriented activities, too.

At the end of the day, find a comfortable spot to watch the sunset. You may even be lucky enough to catch a rare "green flash," a small burst of lime green just as the fiery sun sinks below the watery horizon.

Violets! Vacation! Relaxation! Fun!

OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

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GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS in Rock Wool

by Eugene Allerton
11472 S.W. 13th Place, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33325

Rock Wool is made from lava rock heated to melting temperatures and spun similar to the way cotton candy is made. It is highly water absorbent, non-soluble and alkaline. There are two different types of rock wool. HORTICULTURAL rock wool, which you can purchase from companies that sell hydroponic systems, or you can use the INSULATION rock wool that is put in fire walls, as I do, purchased from companies that sell insulation.

I have been raising miniatures, semi-miniatures and some standard African violets using rock wool for about one and one half years and have had excellent results. I introduced my sister to this method and last year, at the violet show, we received blue ribbons. She took four Best Class and Best Novice awards, but we are still learning the do's and don'ts with this method.

Some of the advantages that I found in rock wool growing are:

1. NO soil mealybugs or other bugs that live in soil, or soilless mixes, will stay in rock wool. Remember that rock wool is NON-ORGANIC. You can inspect for bugs by tipping the plant over, removing the rock wool from the pot. It will come out in one piece to inspect. Return the plant back into the pot without any ill effects to the plants. I have never found a bug in the rock wool itself, but, I have found springtails between the rock wool and the pot. I treated for springtails because I don't like to see anything moving.

2. I do not have any soil or soilless mixes which eliminate the problem: IS IT MY SOIL MIX? I only have to adjust the fertilizer or the lights.

3. It is easy to leach your violets. I let tepid water from the faucet run through the top of my plants to rinse the salts from my violets. This also cleans the leaves of dust. I blow out the crown, and use Q-tips to absorb the excess water on the leaves. No rock wool comes out even when I turn the pot sideways. The Q-tips can dry out and be used later. The violets come out nice and clean and well-leached.

4. I don't have to up-pot or down-pot the violets. Use a pot that the full grown violet is going to grow in. I have put standard plants, stripped down, into 4" pots and they are doing fine. The rock wool does not break down or turn sour like vermiculite or peatmoss. When the plants get a long neck, all you do to correct this problem is, with a pair of scissors, cut off the desired amount of rock wool from the bottom of the plant, scrape the neck and put some Superthrive on the neck. Push the violet back down in the pot and add more rock wool to the top.

How do I get grown plants to adapt to this new environment?

I remove all roots, leaves up to the first two rows, and all blossoms. Make sure it is clean of all mix. Scrap it and rinse. This will give it new root growth. Do not scrap too hard, only to remove the brown and the knobs from the leaf stems. The old roots will die anyway because of the new growing medium. Put some lose rock wool in the bottom of the pot. Do not pack too tight. I tear off pieces so that I have small holes inside the rock wool. The roots will go right through and into the holes. Next, take some rock wool and form a ball, not to tight, around the exposed stem treated with Superthrive. Set it in the center of the pot and fill the pot with more rock wool until it is up to the top of the pot. Remember, you can always lower it later. Place the plant in a solution of your fertilizer water and let it soak. The top of the rock wool will turn dark in a few minutes. Remove, and place it with your plant collection.

When you're transplanting a MINI or SEMI-MINI, because they go into a 2-2 1/4 pot, I place them in a hot house for 20 days. They seem to do better with no loss.

I allow BABY PLANTS to get bigger than normal before putting them in rock wool. If you are growing the babies in a perlite & vermiculite mixture, then rinse them clean and leave some roots. Again, 20 days in the hot house.

Let's take the next step, WATERING YOUR VIOLETS when in rock wool. I dip my violets every 4 to 5 days. Some people call it bottom watering. I use a tray filled with fertilized water and egg-crating with the violets on it to dip in the solution for 10-15 minutes. Then take it back out and put it back on the self. This will vary with conditions in your house. You can tell if a violet is dry, because it will fall over when put in the water. If one or two fall over, it is because the holes in the bottom of your pot are plugged. Take something and unplug the holes. If a lot of your violets fall over then shorten your time between watering. I have tried the wick-watering method, but the plants grow too slow and don't do so well. I think it's because violets like to dry out somewhat. However, wick-watering is good for your plants while you are on vacation. Remove the plant from the pot , place a wick in one side of the pot and bring it to the opposite side then up to the top. Push your violet back into the pot, place it on a reservoir and there you have it. After your vacation, remove the wick and reservoir and resume your

usual watering method.

Next is the FERTILIZER SOLUTION. I use a fertilizer that has all TRACE ELEMENTS in it. Rock wool has no soluble elements. I use a 1/4 teaspoon per 1 gallon of water. I think you can use less because the roots do not have to hunt for food. It is equal in all parts of the rock wool.

GROOMING is last. Here, NO difference.

So, there you are, try a few plants and see if you have luck like mine. Keep in mind that, like all methods, try a little first and remember I am still working with this method. If other people have used rock wool, I would love to hear from them about their experiences.

CREATIVE AND FUNCTIONAL YEARBOOKS

by Kyle Coleman, Ft. Worth, TX

Although an invaluable part of a violet club, yearbook publishing is not greeted with the same enthusiasm that we have while planning a show. Yearbooks are often thought of as no more than a necessary evil that should be put off until the last minute. This is unfortunate because yearbooks, much like appointment calendars, help keep club members up to date on club activities, meetings, sales, and deadlines. A well-planned yearbook can be both useful to club members and fun for the yearbook committee, if two simple rules are kept in mind.

(1) Follow the AVSA Scale of Points for Yearbooks, and (2) scale your yearbooks to meet the needs and skills of your club. Following these two rules will make creating a useful yearbook more fun for your yearbook committee.

The AVSA Scale of Points for Yearbooks provides a concise list of important information that you may want to include in your yearbook. The list includes general club information such as club officers and affiliations, committee chairmen, and violet projects. The Scale even suggests some topics for programs! Other yearbook considerations include beauty, durability, neatness, arrangement, legibility, and functionality. All of this is important for a useful, quality yearbook.

Keeping these helpful hints in mind, scale your yearbooks to the needs and skills of your club. A new club may only need a few pages, while an established club with many members and events may need many pages. Don't make the yearbook bigger or longer than it needs to be. Also, a small club may only have one member to create the yearbook, while a large club may have a full-blown committee. Further, the resources available to a yearbook committee will have a direct impact on the yearbook. Some clubs use a typewriter and a Xerox machine to publish their books. I've seen one yearbook that folded into a desk calendar and was printed (in full color) using a personal computer. Don't try to make a yearbook that is beyond the physical resources of the club, but do try to use the clubs resources efficiently. Following this rule will help prevent biting off more than you can chew.

Judging is another consideration that should be explored while the yearbook is still on the drawing board. After discussing Rules 1 and 2, the yearbook committee should set a goal for the yearbook. Do you want this to be just a blue ribbon yearbook, or do you want this to be a distinctive yearbook as well? Do you even want the yearbook judged? These questions should be realistically answered paying special attention to Rule 2. (A distinctive yearbook requires a significant amount of time, effort, and physical resources.) Above all, the yearbook must meet the club's individual needs with all other "extras" being frosting on the cake.

For a blue-ribbon yearbook, pay special attention to the AVSA Scale of Points. Following the AVSA Scale, dot every "i" and cross every "t." Making a checklist, and checking off each point on the scale of points should be very helpful. Follow the Scale exactly: yearbook judges try to give each book the benefit of the doubt, but don't make it difficult for them! If your club has an AVSA judged show, say so — don't just call it the "spring show." Be specific! As a final check before going to press, go down the scale of points and judge your own yearbook to make sure nothing slipped by.

For a distinctive yearbook, concentrate on creating a blue-ribbon yearbook with special, distinctive, (yet simple) features. A distinctive yearbook is much more likely to win special awards at state and AVSA conventions because it has characteristics that set it apart from the others. An example would be the desk calendar/yearbook mentioned earlier. The committee for that yearbook designed a very simple folding cover that transformed their yearbook into a desk calendar. Further, one of their club members had a personal computer with a color printer. He printed the entire yearbook (in full color) for about the same cost as regular copying. Other yearbooks have used hand decorated covers, special activities at meetings, and listings of club birthdays or favorite cultivars. These are a few examples of how a blue-ribbon yearbook can be made distinctive. With a little imagination, your club may come up with many other ways.

Showcase

Rob's Sarsparilla

1996 New Introduction

Exhibited and Hybridized by:

Ralph Robinson

Rob's Mini-o-lets

Semiminiature

Ness' Busy Bee

1996 New Introduction

Exhibited and Hybridized by:

Don Ness

Midland Violets

Semiminiature

Chirita subrhomboides

Best Other Gesneriad

Exhibited by:

Mrs. Wallace Behnke

Alamo Gold Rush

1996 New Introduction

Exhibited and Hybridized by:

Hortense Pittman

Standard

TALES OF THE Violet Repairman

by Don Geiss
Fredric, MI

Under the category of "Services", the classified ad inserted in the local newspaper stated in part — "Let us repot African violets in your home" and the revelations seen, as a result of that ad, were often a huge surprise.

At one home, African violets covered half of one wall. The surprise was not the quantity of plants but that all of them, with one exception, were **not** in flower and all were the identical type. The obvious question was why so many of the same type? The answer was that the lady had learned about starting plants from a leaf and since that particular type reproduced very well, she had planted every leaf possible.

They were potted in an amazing assortment of containers including coffee cans, butter dishes, clay pots and plastic pots with one about six inches across. Many of the plants were of a size where they should have been flowering, but showed nary a bud. She did not know what type of soil was used nor had any idea of the quantity of fertilizer that was applied.

We explained that smaller and more uniform pots would give more control over the watering. We recommended our special mixture of non-soil material. The visit amounted to a short course on care and raising. We left the home with only a sale of a $2 bag of the mixture and a conviction that it was a blessing we are retired for the time spent and the profit made would starve us to death.

Home visits were not too profitable, we decided, but in our rural area they did have the potential of future plant sales. They also yielded many telephone calls when a former customer had a plant or plants that were not doing too well.

One call from the local Chamber of Commerce described a plant that had wilted overnight, and looked dead. That call simply had to be investigated first hand. After entering the chamber office, the cause of the wilting could be seen from across the room. The person caring for the plant had simply poured fertilizer into the reservoir under the plant and then added water. The bright blue color gave evidence of the fact that the violet was over-fertilized. We removed the plant from the pot and thoroughly rinsed off all of the soil. It was then repotted, and a more proper mix of 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer was added to one gallon of water. Today that plant is healthy and flowering frequently.

Another home visit resulted in the relocation of a plant to the kitchen windowsill from the dark center of a living room. It now flowers constantly. Still other visits revealed pots stuffed with three, four and five mature plants shooting off in all directions. The correction usually was to split the plants and repot in three to four inch plastic pots with the non-soil mixture.

Most frequently though, a call about repotting a plant revealed one that had a stem anywhere from two to six inches long. If it were possible to replant the longest stem, a pot about nine inches deep would have been necessary. Instead we cut off the roots and stem so that it would fit a three and a half inch pot. The remaining stem was scraped so that plant juice was running out of it. It was coated with a substance to encourage roots and prevent fungus and finally planted in a non-soil mixture.

On one occasion, plants in a dining room were thriving while those in a living room showed no buds. Switching the plants from one room to another continued to show that when a plant switched to the living room went out of flower it did not flower again. On the other hand, one that went to the dining room began to flower. The answer was finally given to us by a builder when he said that some houses had a window or windows that filtered out certain daylight rays. Sure enough, the house in question had windows in the living room that were of that type. On more than one call since then, that situation has been the cause of problems.

Of course, the major reason for offering repotting plants in the client's home is because of the danger of infesting our plants with some malady if violets are brought to us.

As long as the subject of maladies has been broached, we note that thus far there have been very few trouble calls about insect or fungus attacks. This may well be because the callers have few plants and these are seldom exposed to new situations where they can be exposed to insects. That is probably also true about fungus attacks since conditions remain about the same in a house from year to year. In one case, cyclamen mites had infested a number of plants and the cause probably was a plant recently purchased from a non-dependable source. The infestation had seriously affected all of the plants but one that was off by itself. We suggested a mite spray every five to seven days. It worked and eventually the plants did turn around.

Episodes about thrips are probably the most frequent even when only one plant is in evidence. Sometimes the owner has relocated it to an open porch during the summer. Thrips that are all over outside have an easy opportunity to infest a violet. Since the critters can invade even a small hole in a screen, or some are so small (we are told) they can

even go through a screen, their appearance is not unusual. It is not, of course, as catastrophic as mites since they tend to feed on pollen and do little damage to plants. Once again there are sprays that take care of the thrips. A word of caution should be inserted here about care of humans, animals, fish and even other plants. Read directions of the particular spray carefully and good common sense should also emphasize that spraying outdoors is preferred to inside.

As mentioned in previous articles in the AV magazine, we conduct workshops dealing with African violets, and one of the questions we are often asked deals with the reason for demonstrating how to start plants from leaves. Why, we are asked, do we show this technique when it cuts into our sales potential? Our answer is partially provided by the example we gave at the beginning of this article about the lady with the plants that were all the same. I tell the person asking the question that many plants all the same color is not really too satisfying. Eventually the person who clones the same plant over and over will supply relatives, friends and neighbors with that plant. In the end, the urge for variety will find her coming back for one or more plants of a different color.

Perhaps the most flattering visit made lately was with a lady where in we commented that she seemed to have been reluctant to have me come to her home. We said that perhaps her reluctance may have been brought about by concern of having a stranger in her home. She answered that our reputation had preceded us but that we were so famous she did not want to take up our valuable time by coming to her home. Needless to say, with that flattery, she has now become one of our favorite customers.

The house calls, while time consuming and not too profitable, are very rewarding to us though, because of the opportunity to talk African violets with some very charming people. After all, isn't everyone who loves African violets a very charming person?

From Schools to Clubs

by Jack Wilson
Manassas, VA

As I attend various African violet meetings and conventions, I notice how many of us appear to be getting a wee bit older. Wouldn't it be great to get some of the younger adults and their children involved in raising African violets? We need to continually bring new people into our clubs to guarantee their survival. Here might be a way for you to help your local club gain new members.

Contact your local grade or middle school and ask if they would support an African violet propagation project. It would be best to talk to individual teachers. They can make it happen. Schools and teachers are always looking for ways to get and keep the children involved in science learning projects. This one will!

You (your club) will need to provide the teacher with instructions on how to best run the project. This will include a simple set of instructions on how to propagate an African violet from a leaf. Many of the clubs hand out similar sheets at their annual judged shows as part of their education table. Instructions should also be included on how to wick the pots. Wicking will be the easiest method of ensuring the leaves/babies/plants receive proper moisture.

Materials required will include small pots to hold the rooting material and leaf. A mixture of vermiculite and perlite works quite well for the rooting medium. Some nylon wicking line and deli or margarine tubs for the 1/8th strength fertilizer will complete the major material requirements.

Leaves should probably be of standard size. They fit best in little hands and tend to root easier. An assortment of leaves ensures many "oohs and ahhs" when the plants start blooming. Remember, "oohs and ahhs" are very important. We want everyone to be impressed with how beautiful the african violet is and how easy it is to grow. Children are the first step. When they take the plant home and present it to Mom and Dad, they too will be impressed. After all, their child grew this beautiful plant just for them! And they did it all by themselves!

Don't forget to provide labels with each leaf and emphasize the importance of keeping each plant's name with the leaf/plant. Someday they may want to enter the plant in a show and will need to know the plant's name.

Provide each student a culture brochure (AVSA) to take home with the plant. This will provide the parents with the information necessary to keep the plant alive and healthy. It may also result in some new members for AVSA so be sure to place your club's name on the brochure. A flyer about your club should also accompany the plant home. It might bring a new member or so to your club.

This is a fun way to get children involved in growing African violets. It can provide them a fun hobby that they can pursue for a lifetime. It may also spark their parent's interest. That interest can provide new members for both your local club and AVSA.

Membership is everyone's concern. Without it, we don't exist!

Magnolia

from the Best Standard AVSA Collection

1996 National Show

Grown and Exhibited by:

Gene Loveland

Hybridized by: ***Burns/Nadeau***

(Please trim to crop marks to match the size of your MVL.)

African Violet

Saintpaulia grotei

1996 Supplement
Master List of Species and Cultivars

This is the 1996 supplement to the sixth edition of the Master List of Species and Cultivars (known as the MVL). The supplement includes all cultivars appearing in the 1996 Registration Reports, descriptions of non-registered cultivars provided by hybridizers during that same period, and changes to previous listings. The MVL and its supplements provide a timely, concise, and accurate tool for classifying, judging, and exhibiting African violets.

The new, seventh edition of the MVL is available through the Beaumont office. It contains all varieties registered through December 31, 1996, all recognized species, and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 through December 1996.

The "universal" IBM and MAC computer version (inclusive through 12-31-96) is $25. Contact the Beaumont office for computer compatibility requirements.

At the request of the AVSA Board of Directors, Dr. Jeff Smith of Ball State University and author of "In Search of New Violets," and a committee chaired by AVSA Past Preseident Mary Boland, have revised the species descriptions in this supplement to reflect the latest research findngs.

Send corrections and/or hybridizer's descriptions of new cultivars to Lynn Lombard, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95602.

The 1996 Master List of African Violets

Compiled by Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman

Supplement to African Violet Magazine Volume 49 No. 6 November/December 1996

*designates registered varieties †designates change

ACA'S series (preceded by **ACA's**):
PINK PET (8471) 07/05/96 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy. **Miniature**
***TORNADO** (8472) 07/05/96 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble red star. Variegated green and white. **Standard**
(end of **ACA's** *series)*

ADIRONDACK MOON (S. Sorano) Double white and yellow variable. Variegated medium green and white. **Semiminiature**
AGE OF INNOCENCE (S. Sorano) Double white star. Variegated medium green and white. **Semiminiature**

ALAMO series (preceded by **ALAMO**):
DOVE (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose shaded. Medium green, plain, round. **Standard**
DYNASTY (H. Pittman) Double dark red. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
***EXPLOSION** (8392) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double red large/darker tips. Medium green, plain. **Large**
***FLAME** (8393) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble coral large. Dark green, plain. **Large**
GLOW (H. Pittman) Semidouble hot coral fluted large. Dark green. **Standard**
GOLD RUSH (H. Pittman) Double gold and pink shaded. Variegated dark green, pink and copper, wavy. **Standard**
HALO (H. Pittman) Double light coral/variable copper tips. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
JOY (H. Pittman) Semidouble coral large/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
JUBILEE (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink and white/purple fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
LADY (H. Pittman) Double bright rose-pink large/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Small standard**
***ODE** (8394) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble lavender large. Dark green, plain. **Large**
***SUNSHINE** (8395) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double white/yellow. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Standard**
SWEETHEART (H. Pittman) Semidouble red large/white edge. Medium green. **Standard**
(end of **ALAMO** *series)*

ANNABELLE (K. Stork) Double pink shaded. Dark green/red back. **Standard**
ANNE TERESE (M. Tyack) Single-semidouble white/mauve-blue eye, edge. Medium green, plain. **Miniature**
***ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE** (8294) 11/04/95 (F. Tinari) Double purple and white sticktite/darker center. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
†**APACHE CUTIE** (J. Munk) Semidouble white frilled star/dark blue eye, variable lilac rays, darker tips. Variegated dark green and white. **Standard**
ARCTURUS (J. Eyerdom) Semidouble dark red/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
ARTIST'S PALETTE (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink/blue fantasy. Dark green. **Large**
AT LAST (J. Swift) Semidouble pink star/darker marking. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
***BABY BRAD** (8396) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/fuchsia marking. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
BALDERDASH (K. Stork) Semidouble-double bright pink pansy/dark purple fantasy. Medium-dark green, plain, glossy. **Standard**

BASHFUL (S. Sorano) Double white pansy/pink and fuchsia mottling. Dark green. **Semiminiature**

***BERGEN PRECIOUS** (8358) 02/13/96 (L. Dwyer) Semidouble light pink ruffled large. Dark green, plain, serrated. **Large**

BEST FRIENDS (S. Sorano) Semidouble rose-pink two-tone frilled star/darker band, thin white edge. Dark green/red back. **Large**

†***BEWITCHIN' JEANNIE** (8009) 11/20/93 (J. Stokes) Double dark blue bell/white edge. Dark green, longifolia, quilted. **Miniature**

BLUE JEANS BABY (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble medium blue cupped pansy. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***BLUE LACE** (8431) 04/24/96 (B. Goodsell/J. Eyerdom) Semidouble medium blue sticktite frilled pansy/variable green band, thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated/red back. **Large**

***BLUE PARADE** (8295) 11/04/95 (F. Tinari) Single purple ruffled/white sparkle edge. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**

BLUE SATIN BOW (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera dark pink frilled pansy/dark blue stripe. Medium green. **Standard**

BLUE SILHOUETTE (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light blue two-tone frilled/variable white; green-edged top petals. Dark green. **Semiminiature**

***BOB SERBIN** (8292) 09/21/95 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble red sticktite pansy/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

BOO MAN (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pale lavender-blue cupped pansy/white top petals, edge. Black-green/red back. **Semiminiature**

BOUNTY HUNTER (K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/blue eye, edge, variable rays. Light-medium green, plain. **Standard**

BROADWAY DANCER (S. Sorano) Double pale pink wavy star/darker eye, red-pink fantasy, band. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**

BUCKEYE series (preceded by **BUCKEYE**):

BEAUTY (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble pale raspberry ruffled pansy/dark raspberry and purple fantasy, variable purple edge. Variegated medium green, pink and cream, plain, serrated. **Large**

BLAME DORIS (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink-fuchsia pansy/variable thin white edge. Variegated dark green, rose and cream, ovate, glossy, serrated/rose back. **Large**

BOUQUET (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double lavender-pink/raspberry and purple fantasy, variable raspberry edge. Variegated medium green, pink and cream, plain, glossy, serrated. **Large**

BUTTERFLIES (P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender ruffled two-tone. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, ovate, serrated. **Standard**

(end of **BUCKEYE** *series)*

BURGUNDY BEAU (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark burgundy. Dark green/red back. **Semiminiature**

***CALIFORNIA SUNSET** (8303) 12/06/95 (D. Hoover) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. Variegated green and white, plain, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

CATHEDRAL (K. Stork) Double vivid pink large star/dark purple fantasy. Dark green, plain. **Large**

CHAMELEON (S. Sorano) Single light red-orchid sticktite variable star/light purple and dark fuchsia fantasy. Medium-dark green, quilted. **Standard**

CHRISTMAS GLITTER (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light pink large star/dark red glitter. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

CRANBERRY (J. Swift) Semidouble bright fuchsia large frilled star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

CRIMSON TIDE (J. Swift) Double fuchsia two-tone star/wide white frilled edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

†***DAISY'S DELIGHT** (8389) 02/26/96 (M. Gratto) Single chimera pink pansy/purple fantasy stripe, marking. Light green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

DANCING LADY (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pale pink fluted pansy/blue fantasy. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

DANCING LIGHTS (S. Sorano) Single chimera white pansy/blue stripe, yellow blush. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

*__DAPHNE'S CHILD__ (8473) 07/05/96 (J. Brownlie) Double red pansy/thin white edge. Variegated green and white, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

DEAN'S series (preceded by **DEAN'S**):

*__BLUE SKIES__ (8355) 02/10/96 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single-semidouble light blue sticktite pansy/white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Standard**

*__SONATA__ (8356) 02/10/96 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single light blue pansy. Mosaic variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

*__SPRINGTIME__ (8357) 02/10/96 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single peach sticktite pansy. Mosaic variegated green, white and pink, quilted. **Small standard**

*__SWEETHEART__ (8469) 06/28/96 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single wine-red sticktite pansy. Variegated green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**

(end of **DEAN'S** *series)*

DECELLES' series (preceded by **DECELLES'**):

ARCTICA (Y. Decelles) Single white sticktite star. Variegated medium green and cream. **Standard**

AVALANCHE (Y. Decelles) Semidouble red-fuchsia star. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

†__BIJOUX__ (Y. Decelles) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. Variegated medium green and cream. **Standard**

*__CORALIA__ (8467) 06/15/96 (Y. Decelles) Single coral sticktite pansy. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

DEFI (Y. Decelles) Semidouble blue-purple pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated medium green and cream. **Standard**

*__FLAMINGO__ (8468) 06/15/96 (Y. Decelles) Single red sticktite star/white edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

OBSESSION (Y. Decelles) Semidouble dark blue star/pink and coral fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream. **Standard**

†__PRESTIGE__ (Y. Decelles) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. Variegated medium green and cream. **Standard**

SERENADE (Y. Decelles) Semidouble pink two-tone star/white edge. Variegated medium green and cream. **Standard**

(end of **DECELLES'** *series)*

DESIGNER GOWN (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble blue two-tone star/thin white edge. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

DESIGNER STAR (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble red-plum wavy star/pink fantasy, thin white edge. Dark green. **Standard**

DIAMOND GIRL (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite large star/lavender-rose-pink eye, edge; variable light orchid fantasy. Medium green, quilted. **Large**

DIXIE GLOW (J. Swift) Double dark magenta star. Medium green, plain, scalloped. **Standard**

DIZZY DI (S. Sorano) Double vivid orchid-pink star/dark blue fantasy. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Standard**

*__DOUBLE TROUBLE__ (8422) 03/09/96 (E. Wasche) Semidouble pale pink/blue fantasy. Dark green, longifolia, pebbled, glossy/red back. **Large**

*__DRIFTING CLOUDS__ (8432) 04/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble white sticktite ruffled star. Medium green, ovate. **Standard**

†*__EDWARD'S DELIGHT__ (8083) 05/10/94 (D. Harrington) Semidouble-double pink pansy/variable white-green frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, pebbled, glossy, wavy/red back. **Standard**

EVERYTHING'S ROSY (K. Stork) Double rose-orchid pansy. Dark green, plain. **Large**

EXTRAORDINARY (J. Swift) Semidouble-double dark red-purple large star/lighter frilled edge. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

*__FANTASY CAMEO__ (8296) 11/04/95 (F. Tinari) Double pink/lavender and purple fantasy. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy. **Standard**

FLASH OF BLUE (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera pink star/dark blue

stripe. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

*__FRANCES MCCOWN__ (8476) 07/18/96 (W. Geeslin) Single lavender sticktite frilled pansy/darker eye, reddish purple-tipped upper petals. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, plain. **Large**

__FROSTED DENIM__ (S. Sorano) Single light blue cupped sticktite/darker eye, white edge. Medium green, plain. **Miniature**

*__FROSTY FUN__ (8397) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double white large. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

__GAUTENG__ series (preceded by __GAUTENG__):

*__ALMA__ (8439) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy/white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, ruffled, scalloped. **Standard**

*__DENISE__ (8440) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble dark red pansy. Light green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*__GERDA__ (8441) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble light pink pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

*__LISENKA__ (8442) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble lilac pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, ruffled, scalloped. **Standard**

*__LIZZY__ (8443) 05/23/96 (P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble white pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*__MARGA__ (8444) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

*__MONIQUE__ (8445) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble medium purple pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*__NATALIE__ (8446) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble medium lavender-blue star. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*__NICOLE__ (8447) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble bright pink star. Light green, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*__SASKIA__ (8448) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**

*__SYBILLE__ (8449) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble pink pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*__VANESSA__ (8450) 05/23/96 (Peba/P. Barnhoorn) Single-semidouble lavender-blue pansy/white edge. Dark green, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

(end of __GAUTENG__ *series)*

*__GILDED PEACH__ (8433) 04/24/96 (N. Johnston) Single-semidouble light pink sticktite large ruffled star/peach overlay. Variegated dark green and dark pink, pointed, quilted/red back. **Large**

__GOLD RUSH__ (S. Sorano) Double white/variable yellow mottling. Variegated medium green and white. **Semiminiature**

__GOLDEN DAWN__ (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white star/yellow rays, variable fuchsia eye and edge. Variegated medium green and white. **Semiminiature**

*__GOLDEN NUGGET__ (8398) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Single creamy white sticktite/bright yellow. Mosaic variegated dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

*__GOLDEN TOUCH__ (8399) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/yellow. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

__GRAFFITI__ (K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink large star/blue-purple fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

__GRANDMA GINNY__ (J. Swift) Semidouble purple-magenta star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

†*__GRANGER'S MEXICALI ROSE__ (2574) 08/03/74 (Eyerdom) Double coral-pink. Plain, quilted. **Miniature**

__GUARDIAN ANGEL__ (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pale pink. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. **Large**

__HEARTS AGLOW__ (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark fuchsia star/ivory eye. Black-green, quilted/red back. **Standard**

__HONEY BLUE ANGEL__ (H. Pittman)

Semidouble dark blue/white edge. Medium green, girl foliage. **Miniature**

***HONEY GINGER** (8423) 03/09/96 (E. Wasche) Double creamy white frilled pansy/tan on top petals. Mosaic variegated green, pink and tan, quilted, wavy. **Large**

HORTENSE'S PLUM PRETTY (H. Pittman) Double white and fuchsia. Variegated medium green and white. **Miniature**

HORTENSE'S RASPBERRY DELIGHT (H. Pittman) Semidouble raspberry/darker fantasy. Variegated dark green and white, glossy. **Semiminiature**

HOT BUTTERED RUM (S. Sorano) Double white and yellow/pale fuchsia edge. Variegated medium green and white. **Semiminiature**

HOT FOOT (S. Sorano) Single vivid rose-fuchsia sticktite star/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

I FEEL PRETTY (K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/pink eye, edge. Light-medium green, quilted. **Standard**

IMPULSIVE (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/dark rose band, variable blush. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

INDIGO DOLL (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark indigo pansy. Dark green/red back. **Semiminiature**

IRISH CASTLES (S. Sorano) Double white frilled pansy/green edge on top petals, variable on lower petals. Medium-dark green, quilted. **Standard**

ISLAND HIDEAWAY (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite large ruffled pansy/blue-purple two-tone edge. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**

IT'S MAGIC (J. Swift) Semidouble hot pink star/darker eye, lighter frilled edge. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

***JEANNETTE'S HALO** (8302) 11/25/95 (Armstrong/Domiano) Double white frilled/green-edged upper petals. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

JULY CELEBRATION (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera fuchsia frilled pansy/wide white stripe. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

KINKY BLUE (J. Brownlie) Semidouble blue/white edge. Variegated green and white. **Semiminiature**

***KINKY PINK** (8474) 07/05/96 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink pansy/green edge. Variegated green and white. **Semiminiature**

KISS ME (J. Swift) Double light pink star/darker frilled edge. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

***KNIGHT MAGIC** (8400) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/light pink rayed eye. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Miniature**

LACE SHADOWS (S. Sorano) Semidouble white pansy/variable fantasy; pink-red glitter edge. Dark green. **Semiminiature**

***LAVENDER RAGE** (8401) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double lavender. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***LAVENDER RUFFLES** (8434) 04/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble bright lavender large ruffled star/darker eye. Dark green, ovate/red back. **Standard**

***LEMON COOKIE** (8402) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double creamy white/yellow. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

LEMON KISSES (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white large star/variable yellow veins, blush. Medium green, ovate. **Standard**

***LEMON TART** (8403) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/yellow. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Miniature**

LIL CHICKADEE (S. Sorano) Double white/variable yellow. Variegated medium green and white. **Semiminiature**

LILBURN (J. Swift) Semidouble red-purple star/white frilled edge. Dark green. **Standard**

LITTLE EBONY (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue pansy. Black-green. **Semiminiature**

***LITTLE JULIE** (8297) 11/04/95 (F. Tinari) Single plum sticktite. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**

***LITTLE PRIZE** (8477) 07/29/96 (H. Pittman) Single white sticktite/pink eye. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

LITTLE SHIMMER (S. Sorano) Single-

semidouble white pansy/light raspberry glitter. Dark green. **Semiminiature**

*__LITTLE TUTIMER__ (8390) 02/28/96 (J. Stokes) Semidouble pink frilled/darker eye, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Miniature**

LOVE KITTY (J. Swift) Semidouble light lavender and white frilled bell-shaped star. Light green, plain. **Standard**

*__LUMINESCENCE__ (8298) 11/04/95 (F. Tinari) Single lilac sticktite pansy/purple ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

LUXURY LINER (K. Stork) Semidouble wine star/darker tips, white fluted edge. Variegated dark green, lavender-pink and cream, wavy. **Standard**

LYON'S series (preceded by **LYON'S**):

CHERRY VANILLA (S. Sorano) Semidouble white frilled pansy/light pink to fuchsia eye, shaded edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**

CROWN JEWEL (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera red ruffled star/wide white stripe, green tips. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

EARTH ANGEL (S. Sorano) Semidouble pale lavender pansy. Dark green, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

NIGHT OWL (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark red-plum large frilled star. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

PINK CADILLAC (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble medium pink large star. Dark green/red back. **Large**

PIRATE'S TREASURE (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink large frilled pansy/wide dark red band, variable red fantasy, green-edged top petals. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

RADIANCE (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera vivid coral star/purple stripe, fantasy. Variegated medium-dark green, cream and white/red back. **Standard**

SASHAY (S. Sorano) Double mauve-pink shaded pansy/darker top petals, green ruffled edge. Dark green, wavy/red back. **Standard**

SHOCKING (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble vivid red-coral/darker fantasy. Black-green, plain/red back. **Standard**

TOMORROW'S SUNRISE (S. Sorano) Single vivid fuchsia sticktite star/darker eye, thin pink fluted edge. Variegated dark green, pink and tan. **Standard**

TRANQUILITY (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light blue two-tone frilled pansy/near-white top petals. Dark green. **Standard**

VICTORIAN VALENTINE (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble bright fuchsia large star/wide white edge. Dark green, wavy/red back. **Standard**

WHITE FEATHERS (S. Sorano) Semidouble white cupped frilled pansy. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

(end of **LYON'S** *series)*

*__MAGIC PARASOL__ (8291) 09/13/95 (N. Johnston) Semidouble white large sticktite frilled star/purple eye, wide edge; variable thin blue streak. Medium green, ovate, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

MAGIC SUN (J. Swift) Semidouble double pink and fuchsia large star. Medium green, ruffled. **Standard**

*__MAJOR__ (8438) 05/04/96 (A. Major) Double dark blue sticktite large. Dark green, plain, glossy. **Standard**

MARIA (K. Stork) Semidouble pale pink frilled pansy/darker pink-shaded on top petals. Dark green. **Standard**

*__MARION'S ENCHANTED TRAIL__ (8478) 07/29/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble medium blue. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**

*__MARLA HENDERSON__ (8404) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white/fuchsia streaks. Variegated medium green and white, wavy. **Large**

MELLOW MAGIC (J. Eyerdom) Double light pink/light blue fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*__MEMORY MAKER__ (8405) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose/pink frilled edge. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

MIDNIGHT TEASE (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark wine pansy/thin white edge.

Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Standard**

MIDNIGHT VELVET (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue shaded star/darker eye, variable thin white edge. Dark green, plain. **Large**

MISS PINKY (J. Swift) Semidouble bright pink large frilled star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

***MOON CRAZE** (8406) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble blush white. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

MOONLIT SNOW (S. Sorano) Double white large star/yellow mottling. Medium green, ovate. **Standard**

MOONSILK (S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender shaded pansy/variable white. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***MOUNTAIN SHADOWS** (8425) 03/25/96 (D. Harrington) Double lavender-pink pansy/purple fantasy. Medium-dark green, ovate, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

NAUGHTY LADY (J. Swift) Semidouble fuchsia shaded star/darker band, white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

NESS' series (preceded by **NESS'**):

ANGEL FROST (D. Ness) Semidouble mauve star/darker fantasy, glitter edge. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**

BASHFUL BLUE (D. Ness) Semidouble medium blue pansy/darker eye. Dark green, heart-shaped/red back. **Semiminiature**

BLUE CONFETTI (D. Ness) Single white sticktite large bell-shaped star/light blue fantasy. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**

BUSY BEE (D. Ness) Semidouble blue pansy/variable red edge. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminiature**

CORAL MAGIC (D. Ness) Single hot coral sticktite ruffled star. Medium green, scalloped. **Small standard**

ECHO PINK (D. Ness) Double pink ruffled large. Dark green, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

FEATHER PINK (D. Ness) Semidouble-double light pink frilled. Dark green, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**

LITTLE DIPPER (D. Ness) Semidouble pale peach-white pansy. Variegated medium green, cream and pink, serrated. **Semiminiature**

LITTLE ECHO (D. Ness) Semidouble-double white wavy bell. Variegated medium green and cream. **Miniature**

LUNAR BLUE (D. Ness) Double medium blue large. Dark green, pointed. **Standard**

MORNING STAR (D. Ness) Semidouble chimera white large star/wide pink stripe. Medium green, heart-shaped. **Standard**

PINK CONFETTI (D. Ness) Single pink sticktite pansy/fuchsia glitter edge. Dark green, quilted. **Semiminiature**

RED VELVET (D. Ness) Single red sticktite large ruffled star. Medium green, scalloped. **Standard**

SILK REFLECTION (D. Ness) Semidouble-double dark red wavy large. Medium green, scalloped. **Standard**

STARBURST (D. Ness) Semidouble fuchsia-red large star/variable white edge. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**

TINY FLAME (D. Ness) Double fuchsia. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. **Miniature**

TRAILBLAZER (D. Ness) Semidouble fuchsia pansy/variable white marking. Variegated medium green and cream, scalloped. **Standard**

(end of **NESS'** *series)*

NEW ATTITUDE (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera pink pansy/mauve stripe, light blue fantasy. Variegated dark green, cream and tan. **Standard**

NIGHT FEVER (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark burgundy pansy/darker fantasy. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

NIGHTFALL (J. Swift) Semidouble blue star. Medium green. **Standard**

OFFICER KRUPKE (K. Stork) Semidouble-double violet-blue. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

OH THAT PINK (S. Sorano) Semidouble vivid pink star. Black-green/red back. **Semiminiature**

OKSANA (S. Sorano) Single light lavender shaded sticktite pansy/darker tips, thin white edge. Black-green, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

OPTIMARA® series (preceded by **OPTIMARA®**):

*__AFFECTION__ (8304) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single light pink ruffled star. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__ALABAMA III__ (8305) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white ruffled/blue center, edge. Medium green, plain, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__ALASKA II__ (8306) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled/blue center, edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

AUCKLAND (Holtkamp) Double blue and white. Medium green. **Large**

CALIFORNIA II (Holtkamp) Single vivid red sticktite. Medium green. **Standard**

*__CENTENNIAL__ (8307) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single pale pink large ruffled star. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

CEZANNE (Holtkamp) Double pink ruffled/purple-blue fantasy. Medium green. **Standard**

DALI (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/dark purple patches. Medium green. **Standard**

*__DEN HAAG__ (8308) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single blue frilled. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, serrated. **Large**

*__DEVOTION__ (8309) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single purple. Variegated green and cream, plain, heart-shaped, serrated. **Standard**

FIJI (Holtkamp) Double dark blue/white edge. Medium green, longifolia, serrated. **Standard**

*__FRIENDSHIP__ (8310) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single dark lilac frilled/darker center, band; white edge. Variegated light green and cream, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy. **Standard**

*__GAUGUIN__ (8311) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white star/dark lilac patches. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

*__GLACIER II__ (8312) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white sparkle, frilled. Light-medium green, pointed, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Small standard**

*__GRANADA II__ (8313) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single light blue/variable white. Dark green, plain, pointed, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*__HAWAII II__ (8314) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble purple-blue star/white ruffled edge. Medium-dark green, plain, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*__HIROSHIGE__ (8315) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/light blue patches. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__IDAHO II__ (8316) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single purple-blue/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. Space baby. **Small standard**

JAMAICA (Holtkamp) Single dark pink sticktite/white frilled edge. Medium green. **Standard**

*__KEEPSAKE__ (8317) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single lilac/darker center. Variegated green and cream, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

LAMBADA (Holtkamp) Single lilac. Dark green. **Small standard**

*__LANAI II__ (8318) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright purple-red/white edge. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*__LEONARDO DAVINCI__ (8319) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/vivid purple-red patches. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__LITTLE CROW__ (8320) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Double white and purple-blue. Light-medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy. **Semiminiature**

LITTLE HOPI II (Holtkamp) Single pink/purple-blue fantasy. Medium green. **Semiminiature**

*__LITTLE OMAHA__ (8321) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/purple-blue patches. Medium green, plain, pointed, serrated. **Semiminiature**

*__LITTLE PUEBLO__ (8322) 12/14/95

(Holtkamp) Double dark burgundy. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***LITTLE SEMINOLE** (8323) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double pink/silver edge. Dark green, pointed, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***LITTLE SENECA** (8324) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble bright pink/white edge. Dark green, pointed, glossy, hairy, wavy/red back. **Semiminiature**

***LITTLE SIOUX** (8325) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble light blue. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***MADRID** (8326) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright burgundy star/white edge. Dark green, plain, pointed, hairy/red back. **Large**

***MICHELANGELO** (8327) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/purple-blue patches. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

***MODESTY** (8328) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single dark blue frilled. Variegated green and cream, variable pink; heart-shaped, hairy, wavy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***MONET** (8329) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/purple-blue patches. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

***NEW HAMPSHIRE II** (8330) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble burgundy-red frilled/darker center. Medium-dark green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy/red back. **Standard**

***NORTH DAKOTA II** (8331) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white and blue/purple-blue center, white edge. Light-medium green, plain, glossy, serrated. Space baby. **Standard**

***O'KEEFE** (8332) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/variable purple-blue edge. Medium green, pointed, hairy, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

***PARIS** (8333) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Double purple/white edge. Dark green, pointed, hairy/red baek. **Large**

***PICASSO** (8334) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single pink/purple-blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

POLKA (Holtkamp) Semidouble light blue wavy. Dark green. **Small standard**

***REMBRANDT** (8335) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single pink ruffled star/purple-blue fantasy. Light green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy. **Standard**

RENOIR (Holtkamp) Single pink/purple fantasy. Medium green. **Large**

ROMANCE (Holtkamp) Single pink. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

***TENNESSEE II** (8336) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white large ruffled star/purple-blue center, edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

***TRADITION** (8337) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright pink/darker eye. Variegated green and cream, variable pink; plain, pointed, hairy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***VAN GOGH** (8338) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/dark lilac patches. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

WALTZ (Holtkamp) Semidouble pink wavy. Medium green. **Small standard**

(end of **OPTIMARA®** *series)*

***ORCHARD'S PURPLE HAZE** (8470) 07/01/96 (R. Wilson) Double white star/purple-lavender shading. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***PAGODA PINK** (8435) 04/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble pink two-tone sticktite ruffled pansy/wide lighter band. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Standard**

PAINTED DESERT (S. Sorano) Single dark salmon-pink sticktite frilled pansy/mauve top petals, berry band, white edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**

***PARTY FRILLS** (8407) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double ereamy white ruffled. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

PARTY STREAMERS (S. Sorano) Double pink-lavender large frilled star/blue-lavender fantasy. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

***PATRIOT'S HEIDI** (8475) 07/15/96 (M.

Jackson) Double pink ruffled star. Mosaic variegated green and white, pointed, ruffled, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

PEPPER-MINTIE (S. Sorano) Semidouble white large ruffled pansy/dark pink to light fuchsia glitter, variable green on top petals. Medium green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

PETITE BLARNEY (H. Pittman) Double pink/green edge. Dark green, girl foliage. **Miniature**

***PETITE FANTASY** (8408) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double rose-pink/purple fantasy. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Miniature**

PINK DEWDROPS (J. Swift) Double light pink frilled star. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

PINK PLAYMATE (S. Sorano) Single light pink sticktite pansy. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

PINK SATIN PILLOW (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera medium pink frilled pansy/blue stripe. Variegated dark green, white, cream and tan. **Standard**

***PINK SKIES** (8409) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double pink/white. Variegated medium green and white, glossy. **Semiminiature**

PLAYTHING (S. Sorano) Single chimera white star/blue stripe, variable yellow marking. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

POWDER KEG (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark red fluted star/white edge. Dark green. **Large**

PRIVATE DANCER (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue pansy/raspberry ruffled edge. Variegated dark green, cream, white and pink. **Large**

***PROMENADE** (8293) 10/31/95 (D. Harrington) Double pink large ruffled star/light fuchsia overlay. Medium green, longifolia, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

PURPLE FRILLS (J. Swift) Semidouble dark purple frilled star. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

PURPLE GODDESS (J. Swift) Semidouble dark purple star/white-green frilled edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

PURPLE MAGIC (J. Swift) Double dark purple frilled star. Dark green, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

REBEL'S series (preceded by **REBEL'S**):

***AMBROSIA** (8300) 11/22/95 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink frilled pansy/darker eye, thin white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**

BLUE CAVALIER (R. Bann) Semidouble dark blue star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

BONNIE BLUE (R. Bann) Double purple two-tone pansy/darker edge. Variegated dark green and tan, plain, quilted, velvety, serrated/red back. **Large**

CENTENNIAL STAR (R. Bann) Semidouble dark red large fluted star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

CHERRY FLAMBE (R. Bann) Semidouble dark pink two-tone large ruffled pansy/darker band, thin white edge. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

JAY BIRD (R. Bann) Semidouble violet two-tone pansy/purple ruffled edge. Variegated dark green and tan, pointed, glossy, ruffled, serrated/red back. **Standard**

LORRAINE'S GRACE (R. Bann) Semidouble pink star/white ruffled edge. Variegated dark green and tan, pointed, quilted, glossy, ruffled, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

MINNESOTA SPINNER (R. Bann) Single chimera white star/purple stripe. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Large**

PURPLE HEATH (R. Bann) Semidouble dark purple ruffled star. Variegated medium green and rose-pink, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

PURPLE SHADOWS (R. Bann) Semidouble purple two-tone pansy/black-purple ruffled edge. Variegated dark green, tan and pink, ovate, velvety/red back. **Large**

RASPBERRY WHIP (R. Bann) Semidouble-double orchid large ruffled star. Variegated dark green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

SPLATTER KAKE (R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone fluted star/purple fantasy, white-green edge. Medium green, cupped, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Large**

STORMY SKY (R. Bann) Semidouble-dou-

ble large ruffled star. Variegated dark green and cream, plain, quilted, velvety, wavy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

STRAWBERRY FLOAT (R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone star/white-green ruffled edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

*__TAFFY PULL__ (8301) 11/22/95 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink large pansy. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

WATERCOLOR RAG (R. Bann) Single-semidouble mauve two-tone star/darker band, thin white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, velvety, serrated/red back. **Standard**

WHIRLABOUT (R. Bann) Semidouble pink star/purple fantasy, white-green edge. Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

(end of **REBEL'S** *series)*

*__RED BANDITO__ (8410) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark red. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

RED LANTERN (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark red star/white fluted edge. Dark green, plain. **Large**

RED OCTOBER (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark red large star. Dark green, plain. **Large**

RED SATIN BOW (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera white frilled pansy/fuchsia stripe. Variegated medium green and white. **Standard**

REIGNING BEAUTY (J. Swift) Semidouble red-purple star/darker frilled edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

RHAPSODIE® series (preceded by **RHAPSODIE®**):

*__BETTY II__ (8339) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled/variable purple-blue edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, serrated. **Standard**

*__CARMEN__ (8340) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single blue. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__CLEMENTINE__ (8341) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single light blue ruffled star. Dark green, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**

*__DOLLY II__ (8342) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white/purple frilled edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy. **Standard**

*__ELLEN II__ (8343) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright pink wavy/red-pink center. Medium green, plain, hairy, serrated/red back. Standard

†*__EMILIE__ (7498) 02/09/91 (Holtkamp) Single blue star. Dark green, pointed, hairy, serrated/purple-red back. **Standard**

*__ERIKA__ (8344) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Semidouble pink/darker upper petals, band; white edge. Dark green, plain, hairy/red back. **Standard**

†*__FENJA__ (7499) 02/09/91 (Holtkamp) Single lilac wasp/darker center, upper petals. Medium green, plain, ovate to round, hairy. **Standard**

*__HOLLY__ (8345) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single blue. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Small standard**

*__MARILYN II__ (8346) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled/purple-blue center, edge. Medium green, plain, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__MICHIKO__ (8347) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single light blue/white overlay. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__NATALIE__ (8348) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single blue ruffled star. Medium green, plain, pointed, hairy/red back. **Standard**

*__NATASHA__ (8349) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single burgundy frilled/darker center, wide white edge. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

*__PATRICIA__ (8350) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single dark red-lilac frilled/darker eye. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__REBECCA__ (8351) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single medium blue. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__ROSALIE__ (8352) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single white/light pink patches. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

RUTH (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double white/burgundy eye. Medium green. **Large**

*__STEPHANIE__ (8353) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single medium blue. Medium green, pointed, hairy, serrated. **Standard**

*__TERESSA__ (8354) 12/14/95 (Holtkamp) Single bright pink ruffled star. Medium green, plain, hairy. **Standard**

(end of **RHAPSODIE®** *series)*

RIO HONDO (J. Eyerdom) Semidouble white/vivid red eye. Light green, plain. **Standard**

ROB'S series (preceded by **ROB'S**):

*__ANTIQUE ROSE__ (8451) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble silver-rose sticktite frilled pansy/darker shading, some silver-green tips. Dark green, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

*__BUNNY WABBIT__ (8452) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/thin pink edge. Crown variegated medium green, white and light yellow, pointed. **Miniature**

*__HALLUCINATION__ (8453) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark blue sticktite star/bright pink fantasy. Crown variegated dark green, gold and tan, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**

*__HAND PUPPET__ (8454) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble chimera pink sticktite pansy/medium blue stripe. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

*__HOT FOOT__ (8455) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Double dark burgundy-red sticktite frilled. Dark green, pebbled, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

*__HUMPTY DOO__ (8456) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/wide bright blue edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy. **Semiminiature trailer**

*__MIRIWINNI__ (8457) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Single chimera pink pansy/blue stripe, fantasy. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature trailer**

*__NEAT NELLIE__ (8458) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white sticktite/pink-red eye. Variegated medium green and white, quilted, glossy. **Semiminiature**

*__PURPLE SLURPLE__ (8459) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Double dark orchid-purple sticktite. Dark green, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

*__RAGAMUFFIN__ (8460) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Single lavender-pink star/dark yellow overlay, blue fantasy. Variegated dark green, white and pink, pointed, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**

*__RUFF STUFF__ (8461) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Double dark pink sticktite pansy/blue fantasy, green frilled edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

*__SARSPARILLA__ (8462) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble copper-pink sticktite pansy/red-brown frilled edge, some green. Dark green, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Semiminiature**

*__THINGAMAJIG__ (8463) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble chimera pink sticktite pansy/blue stripe. Variegated dark green and white, pointed. **Miniature**

*__TIPPY TOE__ (8464) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Double white sticktite/blue edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Miniature**

*__ZIPPITY DOO__ (8465) 05/23/96 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark rose-pink sticktite/dark ruby-red overlay. Mosaic variegated medium green and gold, pointed. **Miniature**

(end of **ROB'S** *series)*

*__ROWDY RAY__ (8411) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose-pink frilled/darker fantasy. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

ROYAL COMMOTION (S. Sorano) Single dark blue sticktite star/red-blue band. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

†**S. brevipilosa** (S 10a/1964) (B. Burtt) Single light purple/darker center; 1-4 per peduncle, very short lived. Light green, small, round, thin, glossy, soft, velvety, tightly bunched/pale back; randomly curved petioles. Usually single crown. **Miniature to Semiminiature to Small standard**

†**S. confusa** (S 16/1958) (B. Burtt) Single dark purple, 2-6 per peduncle. Variable floriferousness. Medium green, thin, quilted, leathery, flexible, serrated/near-white back. Often multi-crowned. May develop

sideways growth habit. **Semiminiature to Standard**

†**S. difficilis** (S 15/1958) (B. Burtt) Single medium to dark blue, 5-7 per peduncle. Chartreuse, longifolia, tends to spoon, thin, deep veining, crinkled, rough, long hairs. Long, bent petiole. Usually single crown, may sucker. **Standard**

†**S. diplotricha Punter #0** (S 12c/1947) (B. Burtt) Single pale lilac/bright yellow stamens; seven per peduncle. Dark green, pointed, thick, serrated. Single crown, may sucker. **Small standard**

†**S. diplotricha Punter #6** (S 12a/1947) (B. Burtt) Single pale lilac to light blue/bright yellow stamens; one per peduncle. Dark green, small, round, may spoon, lotus-type. Single crown, may sucker. **Standard**

†**S. diplotricha Punter #7** (S 12b/1947) (B. Burtt) Single blue-gray to near white/bright yellow stamens. Dark olive green, plain, heart-shaped, pointed/light red back. Single crown, may sucker. **Small standard**

†**S. goetzeana** (S 10/1900) (A. Engler) Single tiny pale lilac to near white/darker upper petals. Three or more per peduncle, rarely blooms. Dark green, small, round, thick, smooth edge/lighter back. Creeping, branched stems, multi-crowned. **Miniature trailer**

†**S. grandifolia #237** (S 7/1958) (B. Burtt) Single blue-violet, one or more per peduncle, floriferous. Light green, elliptical, very thin, long flexible petiole. Usually single crown. **Large**

†**S. grandifolia #299** (S 7a/1958) (B. Burtt) Single dark blue-violet, one or more per peduncle, very floriferous. Light to medium green, elliptical, very thin, crinkled, long flexible petiole. Usually single crown. **Large**

†**S. grotei** (S 17/1921) (A. Engler) Single, light-medium blue/variable darker eye, 2-3 per peduncle. Flowers may hide under foliage. Pale-dark green, variable texture, round, serrated on most clones. Usually near-white back, occasionally red. Green or brown flexible petiole, variable internode length. **Large trailer**

†**S. inconspicua** (S 1/1958) (B. Burtt) Single small blue-spotted white, atypical of other species, one or more per peduncle. Frail. Not known in collections. **Miniature trailer**

†**S. intermedia** (S 9/1958) (B. Burtt) Single medium blue, 5-7 per peduncle, sparse. Olive green, small, round, tends to spoon, velvety, slightly serrated/purple-red back, prominent green veins. Single crown to trailing. **Small standard or Trailer**

†**S. ionantha** (S 5/1893) (H. Wendland) Single blue-violet, 4-5 per peduncle, very floriferous. Dark green, pointed, heart-shaped, tends to spoon, thick, quilted, glossy, slightly serrated, long red-brown petiole/red back. **Large**

†**S. magungensis** (S 19/1950) (E. Roberts) Single small dark violet-blue/darker eye, 2-4 per peduncle, very floriferous. Round, cupped-down, pebbled, slightly serrated, brown petiole/green-white back, prominent midrib. **Semiminiature trailer**

†**S. magungensis var. minima** (S 19a/1964) (B. Burtt) Single tiny light purple/darker eye, 1-2 per peduncle, rarely blooms. Medium, small, cupped-down, thin, hairy, serrated, red-brown petiole. **Miniature trailer**

†**S. magungensis var. occidentalis** (S 19b/1964) (B. Burtt) Single medium violet-blue/darker eye, 2-5 per peduncle. Medium green, ovate, tends to fold and spoon, glossy. **Bushy trailer**

†**S. nitida** (S 13/1958) (B. Burtt) Single dark blue-purple, 8-10 per peduncle, floriferous. Dark green, round, may spoon, smooth, glossy, slender brown petiole/red back. Open growth. **Small or bushy trailer or multi-crowned standard**

†**S. orbicularis** (S 14/1947) (B. Burtt) Single small light lilac to almost white/darker eye, 5-8 per peduncle, floriferous but drops easily. Bright green, small, round to heart-shaped, thin, glossy. Single or multi-crowned. **Small standard to Standard**

†**S. orbicularis var. purpurea** (S 14a/1964) (B. Burtt) Single small dark purple, 5-8 per peduncle, very floriferous. Dark green, round to heart-shaped, thin, glossy/light back. Single or multiple crown. **Standard**

†**S. pendula** (S 8/1958) (B. Burtt) Single pale-medium blue, one per peduncle, difficult to bloom. Pale to yellow-green, textured, slightly elongated to ovate, very hairy, serrated, variable internode length/pale back. **Trailer**

†**S. pendula var. kizarae** (S 8a/1964) (B. Burtt) Single lavender, 2-4 per peduncle, floriferous. Light green, round, hairy, serrated. **Trailer**

†**S. pusilla** (S 2/1900) (A. Engler) Single, tiny white/mauve top petals, one or more per peduncle. Leaves tiny, triangular/purple back. Not known in collections, but may exist in some mountain ranges in Tanzania. **Miniature**

†**S. rupicola** (S 10b/1964) (B. Burtt) Single light-medium blue, three or more per peduncle. Light-medium green, heart-shaped, soft, smooth, glossy, velvety/light back. Leaves sometimes thick. **Multi-crowned standard or Bushy trailer**

†**S. shumensis** (S 3/1955) (B. Burtt) Single pale blue to almost white/variable darker eye, usually four per peduncle, sparse bloom. Bright green, pebbled, glossy, slightly serrated, short petiole, leaf blade twisted in some clones. Single crown, but tends to sucker easily. **Miniature to Semiminiature**

†**S. teitensis** (S 4/1958) (B. Burtt) Single light blue-violet; 1-2 per peduncle, rare blooms hide under leaves. Dark, slightly pointed, may spoon; thick, rough, brittle, glossy/red, sometimes light green back. Usually grows upright. **Standard**

†**S. tongwensis** (S 6/1947) (B. Burtt) Single pale blue, may show dark pinwheel marking when grown cool; 4-6 per peduncle, very floriferous. Dark green, pointed, narrow, very thick, hairy, slightly serrated/some red back. May appear variegated with mottled pattern over main veins. Usually upright single crown, rarely suckers. **Standard**

†**S. velutina** (S 11/1958) (B. Burtt) Single small medium violet/darker eye, some white tips. Five per peduncle, floriferous. Black-green, round to heart-shaped, may cup up or down, thin, hairy, velvety, pronounced veining, serrated/red-purple back. Single crown, may sucker. **Standard**

†**S. House of Amani** Single medium lavender-blue, 3-7 per peduncle, hides under leaves, short-lived. Dark green, pointed, quilted, smooth, prominent veins, serrated/occasional red back, petiole. Usually single crown. Never declared a true species. **Standard**

†**S. Sigi Falls** Single variable blue-violet, 2-4 per peduncle, medium to difficult to bloom. Dull green, tends to look mottled, longifolia, may spoon, thick, tough, very hairy, varies in size/purple-red back. Multi-crowned. Never declared a true species. **Large standard to Bushy trailer**

SASSY SISTER (S. Sorano) Double dark pink/tan-green frilled edge. Dark green, ruffled. **Semiminiature**

***SCHOOL BELLS** (8299) 11/09/95 (C. Cornibe) Single dark blue bell/white edge. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

SEQUINS 'N' RIBBONS (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double medium pink large star/red fantasy, wide fuchsia fluted band. Dark green/red back. **Large**

SHEER CHARM (H. Pittman) Semidouble light pink. Variegated medium green and white. **Semiminiature**

***SIBERIAN MOON** (8424) 03/09/96 (E. Wasche) Double white ruffled pansy. Mosaic variegated green and white, pointed, wavy. **Standard**

SILENT PRAYER (K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender large star/darker frilled edge. Medium green. **Standard**

SKETCHES (S. Sorano) Single chimera pink cupped pansy/dark rose-pink stripe, blue fantasy. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

SMOOTH SAILING (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double lavender-blue frilled pansy/darker veins, white edge. Dark green/red back. **Standard**

***SONG OF LOVE** (8436) 04/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble bright pink sticktite large ruffled star. Black-green, wavy/red back. **Large**

***SPIN-OUT** (8412) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark rose/white back.

Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

SPRING JOY (J. Eyerdom) Double bright coral-pink/white edge. Light green, plain. **Standard**

***SPRING PEACH** (8413) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble light pink sticktite pansy/peach tips. Mosaic variegated green and white, plain. **Miniature**

STARGATE (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble blue-orchid star/lavender-white edge, pink fantasy. Dark green/red back. **Large**

***STORMY CLOUDS** (8437) 04/24/96 (N. Johnston) Semidouble white sticktite ruffled star/dark rose-lavender eye, edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***STORMY SANDY** (8414) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble rose/raspberry fantasy, edge. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

SUGAR FRILLS II (H. Pittman) Semidouble creamy white/pink blush. Variegated medium green and white, glossy. **Semiminiature**

SULTAN (S. Sorano) Semidouble rose-fuchsia pansy/white edge. Dark green. **Semiminiature**

SUMMER PASSION (J. Eyerdom) Semidouble dark pink/red glitter overlay, white edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

SUNSET RIDGE (S. Sorano) Single vivid coral sticktite pansy/variable red-purple glitter; red-purple band, white edge. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

SWIFT'S BLAZING STAR (J. Swift) Semidouble purple star/wide white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

SWIFT'S HUSKY BLUE (J. Swift) Semidouble medium blue large star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

TAFFY APPLE (J. Swift) Double dark fuchsia-red star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

TAPESTRY (K. Stork) Semidouble wine star/white fluted edge. Variegated medium-dark green, pink and cream, glossy. **Standard**

TATYANA (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium pink star/darker band, white edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Semiminiature**

TEEN BRIDE (H. Pittman) Double pink. Dark green, plain, glossy. **Semiminiature**

TEEN CHATTER (H. Pittman) Double bright rose-pink. Variegated dark green and white, glossy. **Semiminiature**

***TEEN GLOW** (8415) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia frilled bell/white marking. Variegated dark green and white, plain, glossy. **Miniature**

TEEN KISS (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***TEEN QUEEN** (8416) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink/raspberry fantasy. Variegated green and white, plain. **Miniature**

TEEN THUNDER (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Medium green. **Semiminiature**

TEEN WISHES (H. Pittman) Semidouble fuchsia/darker fantasy. Variegated dark green and white. **Semiminiature**

***TEXAS BUTTERCUP** (8417) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble white/yellow and pink. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***TEXAS TEEN** (8418) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark red pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**

THAT'S SHOW BIZ (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium pink pansy/raspberry fantasy, edge. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***TINKER BELLS** (8419) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double pink frilled bell. Variegated dark green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***TINY RAMBLIN' SILVER** (8466) 06/07/96 (Harris/Sorano) Double white pansy. Variegated green and yellow, glossy. **Miniature trailer**

***TOSCA** (8391) 02/28/96 (J. Stokes) Double light pink frilled pansy/white-yellow band, green edge. Dark green, plain, pointed, quilted/red back. **Miniature**

***TOUCHABLE** (8420) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. Variegated green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

TRICKY MAGIC (J. Swift) Semidouble red-purple frilled star. Dark green, serrated/red back. **Standard**

TRULY FAIR (J. Swift) Double dark fuchsia star/white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

TWIST OF FATE (S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera medium pink large star/purple-blue stripe, fantasy. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

ULTRA VIOLET® series (preceded by **ULTRA VIOLET®**):

*__ASTEROID__ (8359) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble dark red sticktite ruffled pansy. Light green, plain. **Standard**

*__BILLY__ (8360) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single blue sticktite pansy/white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

*__COMET__ (8361) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single creamy white sticktite star. Light green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

*__COSMOS__ (8362) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single white sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*__DUSK__ (8363) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark lilac sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, pointed, girl foliage. **Standard**

*__ECLIPSE__ (8364) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble dark red sticktite pansy/white ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

*__FIREBALL__ (8365) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark coral red sticktite pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*__FLASH__ (8366) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single red sticktite pansy/white edge. Medium green, pointed. **Standard**

*__GALAXY__ (8367) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark pink sticktite pansy/wide white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

*__GLEAM__ (8368) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble light pink sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, girl foliage. **Standard**

*__HALO__ (8369) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark pink sticktite pansy/wide raspberry edge. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

*__LUMINOUS__ (8370) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single pale pink sticktite pansy/thin raspberry edge. Medium green, pointed, hairy. **Standard**

*__MAJESTIC__ (8371) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark blue sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*__METEOR__ (8372) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single white sticktite pansy/dark blue ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

*__MOONBEAM__ (8373) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble blue sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, hairy, girl foliage. **Standard**

*__MOONDUST__ (8374) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single blue ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*__MOONLIGHT__ (8375) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single white sticktite pansy/light blue ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. **Compact standard**

*__NEBULA__ (8376) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble dark lavender sticktite pansy/white edge. Medium green. **Standard**

*__ORBIT__ (8377) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single lavender two-tone pansy/darker eye. Medium green, pointed. **Standard**

*__RADIANCE__ (8378) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble pink sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, girl foliage. **Standard**

*__ROYALTY__ (8379) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Double purple sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

*__SOLAR__ (8380) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark red sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*__SPARKLE__ (8381) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single medium blue sticktite star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

*__STARDUST__ (8382) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble pink sticktite ruffled pansy. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***STARLIGHT** (8383) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single light blue sticktite star/thin white edge. Dark green, pointed. **Standard**

***SUNBEAM** (8384) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single pink sticktite pansy. Dark green, plain. **Standard** *

***SUNSET** (8385) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Single dark lavender pansy/light top petals, white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***SUNSPOT** (8386) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Single light red sticktite pansy. Dark green, pointed. **Standard**

***TWILIGHT** (8387) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/Blansit) Semidouble dark lavender sticktite pansy/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, pointed. **Standard**

***VENUS** (8388) 02/23/96 (Green Circle/B. Johnson) Semidouble white sticktite pansy/pink edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

(end of **ULTRA VIOLET®** *series)*

VICTORIAN ELEGANCE (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark red-mauve star/wide white ruffled edge. Dark green. **Standard**

***VON'S BABY JAY** (8426) 03/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Single-semidouble white pansy/blue eye, edge. Light green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***VON'S CHERUB** (8427) 03/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Single light pink sticktite frilled pansy/darker eye. Variegated medium green and white, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***VON'S CHRISTMAS TOY** (8428) 03/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Double fuchsia pansy/white edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***VON'S SIMPLE SIMON** (8429) 03/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Single purple sticktite pansy. Dark green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***VON'S SMALL GIFT** (8430) 03/26/96 (Y. Lambert) Single mauve two-tone sticktite pansy. Variegated medium green and white, pointed, quilted. **Semiminiature**

VOODOO MAGIC (S. Sorano) Single dark coral sticktite pansy/purple fantasy, white edge. Variegated medium green, white and cream/red back. **Standard**

***WHITE DEW** (8421) 03/08/96 (H. Pittman) Semidouble white. Variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

WILD IRISH ROSE (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pale pink cupped pansy/wide tan-green edge. Variegated dark green, cream and tan. **Standard**

WINSOME (H. Pittman) Semidouble medium blue/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Miniature**

Notes

LEGEND

Descriptions in this volume have been arranged to create a uniform and logical sequence for identifying, classifying, and judging plants. The format follows the manner in which the class for an entry would be determined.

BLOSSOM DESCRIPTION SEQUENCE

1. Blossom type (single, semidouble, or double)
2. Chimera
3. Color (e.g., pale lavender, hot pink, bright red)
    a. When describing chimera color, either side of the center stripe is listed as the principle color
    b. When color of top and lower petals differ, the lower petal color is listed as the principle color
4. Two-tone (values of one hue, not two different colors)
5. Descriptive adjectives (e.g., large, mottled, variable, sticktite, and, under certain circumstances, ruffled, frilled, or fluted)
6. Shape (e.g., pansy, star, cup, bell, wasp)
7. / denotes "with" followed by remaining features listed sequentially, from blossom center toward edge.
    a. Center or eye
    b. Top petals
    c. Petal tips
    d. Fantasy
    e. Band (if second color, other than green, is present at edge)
    f. Edge
        1) color (Note: white edge is sometimes called geneva edge)
        2) descriptive adjective (e.g., ruffled, frilled, fluted)

FOLIAGE DESCRIPTION SEQUENCE

1. Variegation type:
    a. Variegated (excluding crown or mosaic)
    b. Crown variegated
    c. Mosaic variegated
2. Color (shade of green listed first, if variegated)
3. Shape (e.g., plain, ovate, spooned or cupped, longifolia, heart-shaped, pointed)
4. Texture (e.g., supreme, quilted, pebbled (strawberry), clackamus)
5. Surface (e.g., glossy, hairy, velvety)
6. Edge (e.g., ruffled, fluted, holly, wavy, scalloped, serrated)
7. /back color or type (e.g., /red back, /bustle back)

EXAMPLES:
* **PLANT NAME** (Registration number) Registration date (Hybridizer) Double lavender pansy/dark purple top petals, green-white frilled edge. Variegated dark green and white, pebbled, serrated. **Semiminiature**

PLANT NAME (Hybridizer) Single chimera light pink sticktite star/white stripe, edge. Variegated medium green, pink and white, plain, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

From the AVSA Handbook
For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges

AFRICAN VIOLET BLOSSOM TYPES

The variety of colors, shapes, and forms of the African violet blossom has increased over the years. Some of the more important are the following:

Bell: Single blossoms with a bell shape.

Chimera: Blossoms, with stripes that radiate from the center, pinwheel.

Double: Blossoms with at least two layers of petals.

Fantasy: Blossoms are splotched, streaked or rayed with contrasting color or deeper shade of the same color. The blossoms can be of any kind or shape.

Fringed: Blossoms have heavily serrated or fringed outerlobes. The blossoms can be of any shape.

Edged: Blossom can be any shape. Lobes of the blossoms are edged with any color.
Geneva or Geneva edged: Lobes of the blossoms are edged with white.
Multicolor: Blossoms with two or more colors.

Semidouble: Blossoms that possess more than the standard five lobes, such as those blossoms with a crest or tuft at the center, but less than a full second row of petals. Blossoms may appear single.

Single: Blossoms have five lobes, with two upper lobes that are usually smaller than the three lower ones.

Star: Blossoms have five lobes of about equal size and distance from one another. The blossoms can be single, semidouble, or double. The double star has extra layers of petals but maintains the star form.

Two-tone: Blossoms having two or more shades of color.

Wasp: Blossoms are single and each lobe is very narrow.

AFRICAN VIOLET FOLIAGE TYPES

African violet foliage ranges in color from light green through a dark mahogany green. Markings on variegated foliage (in addition to shades of green) can be white, cream, light yellow, or rosy shades from light pink to a deep wine red. Besides color, the shape of the leaves are also distinctive. The more common foliage types are:

Compound, Wasp, Bustle, or Piggyback: Leaves are compound with one large and two smaller lobes.

Girl: Deeply scalloped leaves, usually rounded or heart-shaped with white to yellow markings at the base of each leaf. These markings can extend to the leaf blades and edges of the leaf.

Holly: Heavily crested leaves with the leaf edges curled forward or bent back with exaggerated wavy edges resembling holly in form.

Longfolia or Spider: Narrow pointed strap-like leaves with either plain or wavy edges.

Plain or Tailored: Plain in texture and form; it is sometimes known as standard or boy type foliage.

Pointed: Ends of the leaves come to a definite point.

Quilted: Leaves have distinct raised areas between the veins. Some leaves have pie-crust edging.

Ruffled, Fringed, Wavy, of Fluted: Leaves have serrated or ragged edges.

Spooned, Ovate, Cupped-up: Leaves are concave with high edges like a spoon.

Supreme: Leaves are thick, hairy, and quilted with strong pencil-like petioles.

Variegated: Leaves (in addition to shades of green) can be marked with white, cream, light yellow, or rosy shades from light pink to a deep wine-red.
A. Variegated foliage: Defines all variegation other than two listed below.
B. Crown variegation
C. Mosaic variegation

Violet Success- the basics.

By Lola Rossi
San Mateo, CA

Growing African violets is really not difficult, providing you have some basic information and instructions to follow.

As an amateur, I promptly killed my first two plants, but undaunted, I decided to try again after reading a little about these lovely plants.

The following is a very simple list which can be followed and will almost guarantee success even for the most amateur grower:

1 Use a light, porous soil.

2 Sterilize all soil in the oven at 300 Degrees for 15 minutes (you may dampen slightly).

3 **Never, Never** re-use soil when potting or repotting. It becomes too acid and plants won't do well.

4 If not wick-watering, water about once a week (in very damp weather you may have to water a little less often).

Nothing will rot leaves and roots and kill a plant faster than overwatering!

5 Use only WARM water or at the very least, room temperature water (cold water will kill your plants in short order!).

6 Vary your fertilizers - high in nitrogen (Fish Emulsion is one of my very favorites for fast growth and lush leaves) for babies or very small plants, balanced formula such as 20-20-20 or similar when they are more mature, and bloom food of some sort when they are mature enough to bloom.

However, one word of caution on the bloom food. A few drops of plain vinegar of any kind, white or red, should be added to your water because otherwise you risk damaging your plants. The leaves can become very brittle and all 'scrunched' up in the center, looking for all the world as though you have a case of mites, when you do not. This is very important to remember!

7 Lots and lots of natural and/or artificial light - I have found that given sufficient light, a healthy plant will bloom even without benefit of regular fertilizer. Although, if you want the many large, gorgeous blooms, it is certainly best to fertilize with almost every watering.

8 Rinse off leaves of mature plants on a regular basis to keep them healthy and vibrant (warm water, please).

9 From time to time, all of us who try our hand at growing African violets will encounter some pests or problems. We can bring in the bugs from the garden, in cut flowers displayed in our homes, or from new plants. ALL newcomers, whether purchased by mail from a catalog, from the local supermarket, garden center, or even obtained from a friend, healthy though they may look, should be isolated for a minimum of one month, away from the rest of your plants to be sure they don't carry any bugs or disease.

10 One of the easiest ways to eliminate bugs such as mealy bugs, aphids and others, follows:

Always have a kitty flea collar on hand and even when you have no bugs or problems, cut the collar into small pieces and don't let the pieces touch any leaves. Scatter at the feet of the violets in your collection. This will help prevent infestation. If you have some plants that have acquired bugs, place a larger piece at the feet of the affected plant and in less than two weeks, your bugs should be gone! This is a far easier method and safer to humans and pets than smelly, dangerous sprays. And if the collar is fresh, it works every time! What could be easier?

11 And last but not least, don't lower your furnace below 65 degrees in the cold fall and winter months. If you do, you risk botrytis blight on your leaves. Of course this goes hand-in-hand with not overwatering your plants, especially during the colder months.

The above rules are easy to follow and will almost certainly guarantee success for even someone with 10 'black' thumbs. I learned a lot of these methods from thoroughly reading my African Violet Magazine. The methods not only came from the experts who write some of the wonderful articles, but also from subscribers who write about their own experiences.

FROM THE CAPE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, SOUTH AFRICA

Long Necks for Beginners

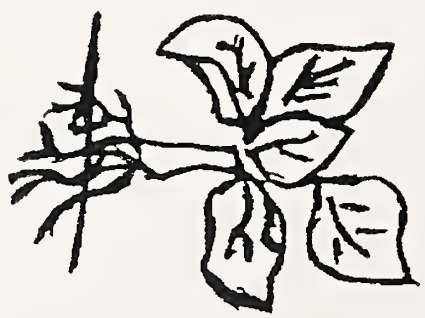
If your African violet plants have reached maturity and you have, from time to time, removed aging leaves from the outer circle, it is quite likely that they are developing long necks. They may already have them and perhaps you are afraid to touch them? If this is so, take heart. Select one of the following methods - go to it and rejuvenate them.

Which ever method you select, the object is to encourage the plant to make new root growth higher up the main stem, while at the same time lowering the plant in the pot so that the outer circle of leaves rest on, or just above, the rim of the pot.

Before you wield the knife, put the plant on a table so you can look down on it. This will enable you to determine how many leaves to remove to make a good 'wheel' shape.

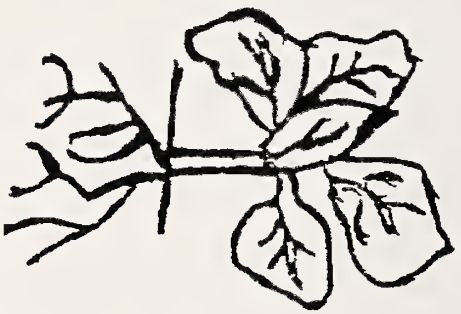
Method 1

Remove the plant from its pot; with care, turn it on its side, then with a sharp knife cut cleanly across the root-ball about half-way down. Take a clean knife and gently scrape the main stem (as you would a carrot). This will remove the outer brown surface and any old stem stubs. You will then have a clean, smooth, green stem down to the root line; dust this with sulphur. Have a clean pot ready with sterilized potting mix in the bottom, place the plant on this, make sure it is centered in the pot, then fill in, as you do when re-potting. Tap the pot firmly on the table to settle the soil around the roots, water it and set it on your shelf in good light. It will make new roots from the scraped area and renew the life of your plant.



Method 2

It takes courage to do this the first time. With this method, you cut the head right off its root-ball! Remove some outer leaves so you have a stem stump and scrape this as in Method 1. Place the stump in a brown bottle of water with a piece of charcoal added (the same way as starting a leaf in water). Place in good light and the stump will sprout new roots in the water. The plant should then be transferred to a pot of sterilized potting mix when the roots are about half an inch to three quarters of an inch long.



Method 3

This is a compromise for those who lack the courage to attempt either of the previous methods. Again you remove the outside leaves to expose the neck to make it easy to get at. You DO NOT remove the plant from its pot. Take a styrofoam coffee cup and cut across the rim down to the same depth as the length of the neck, then cut it down so that it is in two pieces like a collar. Scrape the neck (Method l) then place the two halves of the collar slightly into the top of the potting mix. Now fill the collar with fresh mix to its top. Water and keep damp to encourage the new roots to grow. In 6-8 weeks the plant should be making good roots in the collar extension. When they can be seen (by opening the collar) and are filling it, the main stem can be cut through at the base of the collar and the old root growth thrown away. The newly rooted plant can then be put into a clean pot and treated as a freshly re-potted plant.

With each method the same things apply :

1. When removing leaves and working on African violets there is less risk of damage if the plants are dry and slightly limp.
2. Cleanliness is of paramount importance. If you are dealing with more than one plant, clean the knives between cutting the plants, giving no chance of cross infection. Household bleach will clean the blades.
3. The freshly scraped stem should be dusted with sulphur or if wettable sulphur is available it can be painted on with a brush (pastry) .
4. Vermiculite put next to the stem will keep it moist and help new roots to form quickly and grow easily.
5. Mark the pots so that they get a little more "Tender Loving Care" than usual.

Reprinted with permission from "Violets Agrowing" publication of Cape AVS, South Africa

What's In A Name?

by Barbara Pershing
Cedar Falls, IA

Identity! How many of you have a favorite violet given to you by Grandma Ethyl or Aunt Mary and it has thrived? You have started babies from leaves or suckers and have given them to Cousin Sue and Cousin Jane next door and, . . . with no particular identity other than perhaps one you gave it such as "purple arrow leaf" or "Mom's double white," they bring back many memories and much enjoyment. Beginners are usually happy to receive any or all leaves and plants offered to them to help them get started. They don't think of much more than, "will it grow for me?" and, "what color is the blossom?"

And then, you begin to get serious about growing violets. You become a "hobbyist," and want to take your favorite "no-name" to a club or a show and find that it does not have an "identity." Eventually you begin to recognize names of favorite violets and start to obtain catalogs from AV growers and the names (identity) and descriptions begin to take on a new meaning. People who have been collecting and growing violets for years already know the importance of names. Only registered violets and named cultivars can be shown at AVSA shows.

The registered name given to an African violet is an identity by which a particular cultivar will be known to anyone who has seen it or read about it for as long as a single plant remains in the possession of even one grower. The description of a named cultivar tells leaf form and color, blossom color and type and size of mature plant. This information is available in the Master Variety List (MVL) available from AVSA. A yearly list of new cultivars is published in the September AVSA magazine each year. The MVL also gives a registration number and name of hybridizer for over 8000 African violets. The first 680 are violets registered from 1949-1953 and are alphabetized from MVL#1 African Queen to #680 Zulu Queen. (More on this in another issue of the newsletter.)

The AVSA has a computer software database available for $25. It is possible to search and retrieve plant descriptions and it is interesting to play detective with some "no-name oldies." I have been able to identify two "oldies" using this computer software. I knew the vintage of both. My mother had them when I was married (40 years ago!) so, I used this information. Both my White Madonna (MVL#670) and Blue Angel (MVL#37) came to the top of the list when I gave descriptions. Blue Angel is the only "semi-double, medium blue, dark green pointed quilted leaf" in the entire MVL. White Madonna is the only "double white girl leaf" in the first 680 registered violets. It would not be possible to pin-point all violets so easily. My single pink or double purple, for example, would be difficult because there are several that might fit. I have one "oldie" that brought over 100 "hits" and another that could be any of 10 or so. If you have an "oldie" that you would like me to try to find, give me the best description you can or better yet, bring the violet and come see me.

Reprinted with permission from "The Bloomin' Violet" publications of the Cedar Valley AVC.

Soil, Dirt, Growing Medium, Whatever!

by Betty Tapping, Ontario, Canada

What should we expect from our growing medium? First and foremost it should support our plants. It should allow air, water and nutrients to reach their roots with ease. Each of us has different growing conditions and watering practices; consequently there's not one mix that's perfect for everyone, but let's look at advantages and disadvantages of some. We find that, despite our search for that perfect growing mix, gesneriads (including African violets) will grow quite successfully even in hydroculture provided they are fed special nutrients geared to that particular type of growing.

We don't have to be specialists in plant chemistry to successfully grow gesneriads. A variety of ready-mixed growing media and fertilizers are available commercially, as are formulas for successful mixes. We do, however, have to be aware of the needs of the particular plant family we are growing.

Any plant will have trouble absorbing nutrients if the acid/alkaline balance (pH) of the soil is not within an acceptable range. pH is measured on a scale from 0 to 14; 7 is neutral, 0 is most acid, and 14 is most alkaline. African violets and most gesneriads like a slightly acid pH level of between 6 .4 and 6 .9. How do you know if the pH balance of your soil is a problem? You might be suspicious if your plants are generally sickly with pale green leaves. Excess acidity can produce stunted growth, a yellowish green color on older foliage, fewer blossoms, and the center leaves may become tight. An overly alkaline soil can also cause leaves to turn yellow as though they were undernourished, so that the symptoms of excess alkalinity and acidity are difficult to distinguish one from the other. If peat moss is a major ingredient of your mix, it is more likely to become acid rather than alkaline. A dependable pH tester is a boon - but cheap, inferior ones are prone to give false readings.

Soilless mixes are usually based on varying proportions of peat moss, vermiculite and perlite. Advantages of these are easy root penetration and therefore fairly rapid growth. However, although sphagnum moss peat holds up for many years, when these mixtures are permeated with roots they need replacing right away. Too often, when we buy commercially produced plants in soilless mixes, they are already to the point where roots have penetrated almost all the soil spaces; symptoms of which are quick run-through of water and rapid drying out. There's another disadvantage in mixes, based only on peat, perlite and vermiculite. These mixes are so sterile that it is doubtful that fertilizers such as natural fish emulsion and animal manures break down into a form that plants can use. Soil based mixes will recover bacteria from the air to allow production of a nitrate form of nitrogen from urea or ammonium forms (Reference: articles by Ernie Fisher and Fred Dale of the Toronto Star).

A potting mixture with the addition of regular soil therefore, seems to offer some advantages. Most soil mixes include portions of the soilless mix ingredients, plus real soil.

Peat moss is the product of partially decomposed sphagnum moss. It can absorb a lot of water, but dries out very quickly. This can be a problem in a soilless mix, unless you wick-water, grow on capillary matting or are fastidious in regularity of watering and fertilizing. Peat moss has the acidity which the majority of gesneriads, including African violets require, but in time a mix can become overly acidic.

Dolomite lime in powdered form is added to peat-based mixes to compensate for excess acid. Unlike horticultural lime or limestone proper (calcium carbonate), the dolomite variety includes the trace element magnesium, which is needed for photosynthesis.

Vermiculite is mica treated with heat to form thin sheets. It can provide good air circulation and drainage to your mix. Water and fertilizer are easily absorbed for gradual release. It tends to disintegrate rapidly so that a mix heavy in vermiculite may have to be replaced within a year or so. The preferred coarse type of vermiculite is becoming hard to find in this area and I believe throughout North America.

Perlite is a lava rock heated to froth and then cooled. It's ideal for good air circulation and drainage. Water retention is somewhat limited, but it doesn't break down. It is extremely dusty, so work with it moistened, if possible, or wear a mask to avoid inhaling the dust.

Fisher's Violet Soil was originated by Ernie Fisher, one of the few Canadians to make hybridizing and growing African violets a full-time occupation. By adding a good quality **sterilized clay top soil** his formula made a heavier mix that retained water well, but was still light enough to allow for good air circulation to plant roots. A further addition of **horticultural charcoal**, which sweetens the soil, while also providing good aeration and easy root penetration, produced an excellent growing medium, still widely used today - more than ten years after his death. Some gesneriads are almost epiphytic and don't require such a heavy mix. For those plants, especially wick or mat-watered plants, some extra perlite is recommended to lighten it. Not many people sterilize

their own soil as heat sterilization is a smelly business, although I find 1 lb. in a bag warmed the microwave for 2 minutes isn't too objectionable and works. You may, however, prefer to purchase a good quality soil, chemically sterilized.

Bone Meal (powdered bones) acts as a fertilizer.

Ferbam is a fungicide. In a suitably dilute quantity it prevents fungus diseases associated with high heat and humidity. If improperly used it can be toxic to the skin, eyes and kidneys. A tablespoon per half-bushel of mix may be used but is optional. In his original leaflet "From Beginning to End", Ernie also mentioned that 1/2 teaspoon of V-C 13 may be used for nematode control. However, when giving his formula in later years this product was not mentioned, probably because nematodes have not been a problem in these parts.

Long fibre sphagnum moss can actually be used as a growing medium entirely on its own for sinningias and achimenes. They like a slightly more acid environment than most other gesneriads. A small amount of dolomite lime may still be added to keep it from becoming too acidic.

Milled sphagnum moss, as opposed to regular peat moss, is often recommended as a major mix ingredient or for seeding to prevent 'damping-off'. Both types of sphagnum are hard to moisten when they're bone dry. Use hot water to soak long-fibre sphagnum and cover it for an hour.

Whatever growing medium you use, your plants will need fertilizer. Most successful growers use a constant feed rotation of two or more different water-soluble fertilizers, at one quarter of the manufacturer's recommended strength. A 'General Purpose' or 'African Violet' fertilizer would be suitable in both soil and soilless mixes.

Over a period of time, fertilizers have a tendency to cause acid build-up in the soil, in which case you may adjust your soil mix by adding extra powdered dolomite lime to the mix, or water it in at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. Crushed egg shells in the mix may be effective over the long term. You may try leaching the soil by running clear lukewarm water through it and then adding 1 tsp. of Epsom salts per gallon of water. Epsom salts or magnesium sulfate are available at the drug store. An overly alkaline condition, causing chlorosis, is much less likely to occur in a peat moss based mix.

If you start with a growing medium that's been proven by serious growers to suit the needs of gesneriads, you are half way to a great show plant. If you've found a mix that works well in your growing conditions, stick with it. If you do decide to make a change, don't make radical changes all at once. Try a few at a time and compare. Gesneriads are very adaptable plants which thrive in many growing media, and on very little fertilizer, but do try to provide the best. The growing mix often gets the blame when the grower may be negligent in providing one of the other necessities for good plant health, or when your local water supply pH is at an unacceptable level.

Light Soilless Formula

Use a 1 pound coffee can (equal to a quart) as a measure.
1 can vermiculite
1 can perlite
1 can screened peat moss
Add 2 tablespoons dolomite lime.
This mixture has no nutrients, so should be fertilized at every watering with a solution of a well-balanced fertilizer: 1/4 teaspoon of 20-20-20 or 15-16-17, to a gallon of water.

Easy Formula Soil Mix

1 part potting soil
1 part perlite
1 part vermiculite
1 part milled sphagnum moss
Mix all together and moisten
The soil provides some nutrients, but fertilizer will be needed.

Lazy Gardener's Formula - (from Monte Watler)

Use a one pound coffee can (equal to a quart) as a measure.
3 Parts ready-mixed African violet soil or other tropical plant soil
2tbsp. dolomite lime
2 parts vermiculite (coarse)
2 parts perlite (medium)
1/2 cup super phosphate
2 qts. hot water
Mix well by placing dry ingredients in a double plastic bag and shake until all ingredients are evenly mixed. Transfer to a plastic pail and moisten with the hot water by using a watering can equipped with a fine spray nozzle. Cover and let stand for a few hours.

***Ernie Fisher's Formula.**

8 qts. screened peat moss
2 qts. horticultural charcoal #6
2 qts. horticultural vermiculite (coarsest available)
2 qts. perlite (medium)
2 qts. clay loam - screened, sterilized
1 cup bone meal
1 cup dolomite lime
1 tbsp. Fermate (optional)
1/2 to 3/4 gallon warm water
Mix Fermate with bonemeal and dolomite lime. Add to all other dry ingredients. Mix well. Dampen with warm water (should hold together when squeezed). Store in a dark place in plastic pails or plastic bags.

*This last recipe is the one used for Tapping's Soil, and a number of you have requested that it be printed in Chatter.

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The Journal of the AVS of Canada

Interpretive Flower Arrangements

by Edna Rourke
Shelton, CT

To some just the word "design" is intimidating and it really shouldn't be. While, indeed, design can be challenging, the finished product or end result brings satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment to the designer as well as visual enjoyment and beauty to the viewer.

The design division in an African violet show is divided into three sections: Interpretive Flower Arrangement, Interpretive Plant Arrangement, and Container Gardens. According to the AVSA Handbook, the purpose of an Interpretive Arrangement is to display African violets in an artistic manner. In flower arrangements African violet blossoms should be emphasized and in plant arrangements the African violet plant should be the focal point.

I would like to focus on Interpretive Flower (scaled down design) Arrangements. There are certain requirements an exhibitor should be familiar with. They are:

The Schedule - It is the law of the show and the start of any design. An exhibitor should read and follow it carefully. The dimensions, height, width, and depth, should be clearly and specifically stated. When making an entry into any one of these classes, the space allotted should be used to its fullest and best potential. In other words, the design should fill the space but not exceed it. An easy way to make certain this will happen is to make your own niche by cutting either poster board or cardboard into pieces the sizes of the dimensions given in the schedule.

Container - Almost any type of container can be used. It has to be in proportion to the size of the space it is to be placed in. It shouldn't be so large that the material looks overwhelmed or so small that it is dwarfed by the material. Neutral colors such as beige, gray, black, or green are preferable. Containers should be suitable to the category of the class the entry is to be made in. They can be of dull metal, ceramic, driftwood, etc. The only limit is the imagination.

Type - The best choice is usually a line design. They are easier to handle and require little plant material. Line is the visual path the eye follows and can be either straight, curved, diagonal, or vertical, etc. Curved lines, usually the most graceful, create rhythm.

The length of the line is determined by both the dimensions given in the schedule and the size of the container. To determine the length, measure the height and width of the container, add them together, and make the line 1 1/2 times that measurement. If your line material is very thin the lines can be strengthened by adding height but you should never exceed the line by adding material beyond it. Plant material should never touch the sides or back of the niche if one is used.

Plant Material - Try to choose material that will hold up well. Woody or twiggy types are best and may be of wisteria, bittersweet, forsythia, ivy, or grape vine, etc. Any material that isn't too stiff may be used. It can be wired into the desired shape and then added to the design. When the wire is removed, the material should hold its shape. Remember when doing small designs, small foliage should be used.

It should be noted, according to the AVSA Handbook, never use artificial plant material, an American flag, or live creatures in any design class.

Conditioning - This is one of the most important steps in doing any design and it should be done well in advance of putting the design together. Woody or twiggy stems should be crushed with either a hammer or mallet to allow the material to absorb water. African violet blossoms should also be well conditioned.

To condition blossoms, first water the plant the day before and let it become turgid. Cut nearly open buds and blossoms near the base of the stem. Immerse the stem up to the bloom in water that is barely warm. Place in a plastic bag and store overnight in a cool place. It should be noted that when choosing blossoms for design, choose them from plants that have strong stems. Flowers should be upright and have good color, substance and be freshly opened. Use one variety in a design rather than several colors. Too many colors are disturbing and will take away from your design. To keep it in good scale and proportion, the blossoms should be no greater than 1/3 the size of the container. I have found that the miniature and semiminiature blossoms seem to work best in smaller designs.

Once all of these steps have been completed, it's time to put everything together:

First, set up your niche according to the dimensions in the schedule. Then put a piece of plastic down to work on. Prepare your container with either floral foam or a pin holder. If using a pin holder attach it to the container with either floral clay or cling. If using floral foam, make sure it's wet and then tape it in place to the container. Establish the line in your

container, add material to support the line and add blossoms and buds. Place buds and smaller blossoms at the top and gradually increase their size. Don't forget to add plant material to the back to create depth. Make sure you have enough water in the container and mist the design with water. Remember to be sure to check the blossoms and plant materials in your design during a show. Replace any faded blossoms or wilted material as needed.

JUDGING OTHER GESNERIADS

by Linda Golubski, Blue Springs, MO

There are so many different "other" gesneriads that are being shown now, that I think we need to address the criteria by which to judge them. This will be a basic guide line, because of course, they are all different and new varieties seem to appear daily.

Here is the scale of points by which they are to be judged:

Gesneriads In Bloom

40 points cultural perfection
35 points condition
25 points quantity of bloom

Gesneriads Grown for Foliage

40 points cultural perfection
35 points ornamental value
25 points culture

Let's first take gesneriads in bloom. 40 points are awarded to **cultural perfection**. Those who are judging should take into consideration the growth habits of the plant being judged. Is it leggy when it should be compact and lush? Does it have good shape or form, or is it all growing on one side of the pot? Is it in the correct size pot? Is there a balance of soil showing around the plant? Are the leaves as they should be? If the plant is a tall grower, is the stalk straight? (Keep in mind it can be staked).

Condition gathers 35 points. Are the leaves yellowing? Do they have brown spots, brown edges, fertilizer or water spots? Are the leaves of proportionate size for the particular variety? Is the plant clean or dirty? Are all old blooms, stubs and unnecessary stolens removed?

25 points for **quantity of bloom** completes the first category. As a judge, your obligation isto know how to judge design and other gesneriads. Too many times I hear from judges "I don't do design" or "I don't grow other gesneriads". If you don't, you should. Your obligation to the exhibitor is to know your subject matter. How can one appreciate a design or the effort that goes into it if one doesn't experience this? I feel I have an obligation to grow many different gesneriads, if I am going to judge them. I make it a practice to grow at least (2) new varieties each year. In all honesty most of them go in the trash, but I can now appreciate someone who has grown a beautiful specimen. You're probably asking yourself what does this have to do with "quantity of bloom"? It's simple. The first time I judged "other gesneriads" as a student judge, my panel gave a plant, with only one blossom, a red ribbon. I remember that we even considered giving it a white ribbon. The plant was culturally perfect. As it turns out, to get a single blossom on that plant was a miracle! I've always felt badly about that. My apologies to Molly Blacketer for that error. Try to know your subject or hope that one of the other judges on the panel has had experience with it.

I can give you a few guidelines for quantity on some varieties. Miniature sinningias are mostly free flowering and should have 2 or more blossoms to receive a blue. Episcias, nautilocalyx, achiminies and columnnias should have their blossoms evenly distributed throughout the plant. Compact streptocarpus will have more blossoms than a large-leaved, large-flowered variety.

Gesneriads in general may be grown multiple crowned provided that the crowns are proportionate in size and all are blooming.

Gesneriads grown for their foliage have the same rules for condition and cultural perfection as flowering gesneriads. The big difference is the ornamental value of their foliage. There is a difference between a plant that is grown for ornamental value and one that is "out of bloom". You wouldn't show a sinningia that had no flowers, would you? Would you show a streptocarpus without blooms? Of course not! Look for plants with colorful or unusual foliage; episcias and some nautilocalyx come to mind. Look for plants with variegated foliage. I have seen some episcias that have no ornamental value, but were shown in the ornamental value class. This is a mistake. Not every episcia's foliage has value.

Use your best judgement on "other gesneriads". If you or the other judges on your panel don't know the variety you're judging and the plant has been well grown, give the exhibitor the benefit of the doubt. **Remember, our job is to encourage, not discourage.**

There is so much more to know, but I hope I have touched on a few of the more important points.

Photographing African Violets

by Joe Bruns

The best way to photograph African violets is with a single-lens reflex camera. As you look through the viewfinder you are looking directly through the lens, so what you see will be on your film.

There are some other accessories that you might want to use to help you take good pictures. A tripod will help to hold the camera steady and avoid blurring while a shutter release extension will allow you to snap the picture without jarring the camera. If you want to take close-ups of blossoms, a macro lens is best, but expensive. Instead, an inexpensive set of close-up lenses will produce excellent results. These lenses of varying strength screw onto the front of the lens.

Choice of film will depend on a few factors. If you are shooting under natural light, you can use a slower film (ASA 64 to 100). If you are taking close-ups under artificial light, a faster film (ASA 200 to 400) might work better. Just remember, the faster the film, the grainier the pictures. Use of a flash can produce unwanted shadows. It's best to have light coming from several directions, if you can.

Set your camera so that you use the highest f-stop number for your lens. (Use aperture priority, if available.) The higher the number, the smaller the lens opening, and the greater the depth-of-field (more of the subject in focus). If this produces an exposure of more than a second or so, you might want to increase the light or go to a smaller f-stop number.

If you use close-up lenses, try to go with a telephoto lens; the further away from the subject you can get, the better the depth-of-field. Also, telephoto lenses generally have larger f-stop numbers.

A nice effect is achieved with a seamless background. Drape some cloth under the plant and over a backdrop. Try various colors—black is always a good choice. Tilt the plant slightly toward the camera, and shoot down on the plant, emphasizing the beauty of the rosette.

If you are taking close-ups, you may have to move the camera back and forth a bit to get into the focusing range, then fine focus with the lens adjustment. If you have a depth-of-field preview, use it.

Lastly, if you are using slide film, remember to bracket your shots. (Expose the film slightly longer and slightly shorter than what the camera recommends.)

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Pests and Dieases

PROBLEM:	SYMPTOMS:	PREVENTION/ TREATMENT
Black Flies/ Fungus Gnats	Little damage until they multiply into large numbers.	Isolate new plants. Raid House & Garden Spray No Pest Strips Malathion
Crown Rot	Plants wilt and become mushy. Crown, leaves, and roots die.	Use baked soil and clean pots. Avoid overwatering. Benomyl
Fertilizer Salts	Browning leaf tips and margins. Yellow, brittle leaves. Root damage.	Don't over-fertilize. Flush soil with plain water after 4 or 5 waterings with fertilizer.
Mealybugs: Foliar	Plants look dull, off-color. Found in white "cottony masses."	Isolate plant. Spray plant and drench soil. Orthene Diazinon Malathion
Mealybugs: Soil	Look like "small grains of rice." Plants wilt, no blooms, yellow leaves.	Isolate plant. Spray plant and drench soil. Orthene Diazinon Malathion
Mites: Broad	Brittle leaves curl or roll under. Can kill a plant.	Throw it away. Spray plant, especially under the leaves. Diazinon Kelthane Thiodan
Mites: Cyclamen	Whitish, fuzzy center.	Throw it away. Orthene Diazinon Kelthane Thiodan
Nematodes	Roots have bumps and swollen areas that look like "beads."	Throw it away. If community watering, check all plants that share that area.
Powdery Mildew	Grayish-white powder on leaves, stems and blooms.	Use a fan. Increase space between plants. Benomyl Lysol (not directly on plants)
Thrips	Spilled pollen. Blow on a bloom, then watch for thrips.	Disbud and isolate all new plants. No Pest Strips Orthene Malathion Foggers

This chart is meant to help you, not scare you. **If you isolate every plant that you bring home, you can avoid a lot of problems!** Before you spray or drench, read the label carefully and follow all directions.

Reprinted with permission from "The California Council News" publication of the Northern & Southern CA African Violet Councils.

"Thinking Small" continued from page 9

Dickie of Ontario, Canada, wrote that her growing area humidity runs at 70-80%, and her 'Precious Pink' sits at the top of her shelves (theoretically where it's warmest) and is covered with bloom! She added she was fighting a battle with mildew, but 'Precious Pink' had not succumbed to it so far. Because her humidity is naturally high, she is able to keep fans going and also create a draft through the area by leaving a couple of doors open. Another note: I have heard suggestions that 'Precious Pink' likes a very warm growing area similar to where it was hybridized (Hortense, why aren't you from Kansas City?) This may explain Joan's success!

Another theory came from Darryl Hoover, who believes 'Precious Pink' has developed into at least two, maybe three different strains. The original has smaller leaves, clearer variegation and is an easy bloomer. The second has larger leaves with more marbled variegation and is difficult to bloom. The third resembles the second but blooms well once the plant matures. WOW! He also believes separate strains of 'Magic Blue' and 'Winnergreen' also exist. Darryl writes, "The 'Strain Factor'... helps explain why some varieties perform well for some growers and not at all for others... If nothing else, the strain factor gives us yet another excuse as to why we couldn't grow a particular variety." What Darryl is proposing is really interesting, and something all of us have been (sub) consciously aware of for a long time. Darryl, I believe you have something here, but as for my poor, pitiful attempts can only respond: one of the 'Precious Pinks' that graced my collection was obtained from a fellow club member who showed it at one of our shows. When I took it home, it was loaded with bloom. It never bloomed again for me, despite growing beautiful, perfect foliage for a couple of years.

Now, to a third theory. Louise Merritt displayed a beautiful 'Precious Pink' as a part of her convention talk. Afterwards I approached her with my sad tale, asking her for advice. She suggested some plants like to "sulk," at which time she adds a pinch (a scant teaspoon) of Epsom salts, a pinch of baking soda, a pinch of saltpeter, and 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon of plain, clear ammonia to a gallon of water and drenches her plants with this solution about four times a year, especially right before show time. She also stated she had one good strain of 'Precious Pink' she keeps going, and the plant she had on display was of that strain. Then, bless her heart, Louise gave me this plant. So once again, I believe I have acquired a "good one," although I'm not sure which strain it is. With this new found advice I will attempt to accomplish what for me is "the impossible dream."

Looking Ahead

In the January issue I hope to have a surprise for you: a guest columnist to give you his version of how to grow show plants. This will be included with my version! It should give you a lot of ideas to compare and contrast, and hopefully will be very inspirational with all the spring shows coming up. As I'm writing this, the agreement is being worked out and I truly hope we will accomplish this goal.

Meanwhile, may all of you have a very bright, festive and gratifying holiday season. But don't forget to water those violets!

*For an excellent discussion of soil mixes and IEC, see these two articles by Heather Gladney: "Inorganic Mix Components", 41 African Violet Magazine 1, January/February 1988, page 49 and "Soil Requirements for African Violets", 41 African Violet Magazine 2, March/April 1988, page 34.

THRIPS-FREE, AT LAST!

by Dorothy Cusce
New York, NY

"You will never completely rid your violets of thrips." So wrote the kind gentleman, who, in desperation, I had contacted on the advise of a vendor. This man was known to grow beautiful violets without dangerous chemicals.

I had sent off for some Orthene PT 1300, which was advertised not to harm flowers, so it sounded very safe. I was unprepared for the manufacturer's warnings; "Not to be used in or around houses", "Wear protective plastic clothing," with specific instructions on what type of plastic to use! I sent it back for a refund, which I promptly received, along with a suggestion of who to contact for non-chemical control of pests.

At this time, my windows were loaded with violets, which were all loaded with thrips. Nothing I used seemed to bother them. The advice I received helped a little, but I began to think that nothing would kill these pests without killing me, too!

I had to think of something. Since I only had eighteen plants (all my window space would support without badly overcrowding) I decided to try PLAIN WATER. Every morning for the next month, I carried the plants to the sink and ran a fairly strong stream of water INTO EACH BLOSSOM.

The result? At the end of the month, there was not a thrips to be found! I kept this up for a while, washing the blossoms every other day or so, until I was sure that the pests were entirely gone.

A lot of work, you say? Yes, it was, but two years later I am still free of the bugs. Of course, this method is not practical for large collections. But, for owners of large collections, chemical methods may be practical as they may have a greenhouse or at least a basement in which to grow plants. I live in a small city apartment, and for those in my situation, the method I used may be the only solution.

I use this method for any new plant I bring in, no matter what the source, keeping the plant isolated during treatment.

Be sure to hold the pots on their sides during treatment, to avoid over-watering, and always use luke-warm water.

The best part of this is that my plants are healthy and I'm alive to tell the story!

Further Investigation of the Leaf Pigments in African Violets

by Caitlin Skinner, Alecia Nastoff and Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities
Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306

One of the concerns of biologists is the study of the diversity of life. Questions are constantly being raised as to how many different kinds of species there are and how much diversity there is within a particular species. While the amount of diversity varies between organisms, the general consensus among biologists is that the more diversity a species has, the better off it is and the more likely it will be to survive over evolutionary time.

African violets would appear to have little trouble with a question of biological diversity. There have been over 10,000 estimated cultivars and hybrids and the number grows each year. There are also around 20 African violet species. But, just how diverse are African violets? What would we really find if we studied African violets from a biological or chemical standpoint? To gain an insight to this question, a study was conducted on the leaf pigments of African violets. If African violets are truly diverse, then a number of leaf pigment combinations should be found when a large number of plants are examined.

Previous studies on the leaf pigments of African violets found that the species plants can be divided into four groups depending on the presence or absence of a leaf anthocyanin pigment and one or two phenolic compounds (Ives and Smith, 1992a). Most of the species fell into two main groups, but *Saintpaulia shumensis* and *S. teitensis* had pigment combinations that appeared to be unique, having only one phenolic compound. Additional studies have suggested that the presence of the leaf anthocyanins were not linked to flower color (Ives and Smith, 1992b). These studies, however, examined only a limited number of cultivars. The purpose of this study was to examine a larger number of African violets to determine if: 1) the plants with the leaf anthocyanin compound have the same chemical and 2) if other plants could be located that had the single phenolic compound found in *S. shumensis* and *S. teitensis*.

The pigment extraction method of Khokhar et.al. (1982) was modified and used on the leaf blades of African violets. A mature leaf was removed from the plant and the blade was cut into pieces approximately one centimeter square in size. The pieces were placed in a test tube and covered with a methanol extracting solution containing 1% HCl. After several hours of extraction, the solution was decanted from the leaf material and stored in a refrigerator until analysis.

The extracts were deposited in parallel lanes on sheets of Whatman #1 chromatography paper (prewashed with a 1% HCl solution). A BAW solvent solution (n-butanol, Glacial Acetic Acid, Water; 40:10:50, upper phase) was used to separate the extracts over a 14-15 hour period. The chromatography papers were removed and dried. The pigment spots were examined under natural and short/long ultraviolet lights. The colors and Rf values (rate of flow) of the pigments were observed and recorded.

Approximately 95 plants were examined in this study. The plants represented standards, miniatures, trailers and a large assortment of flower colors (blue, red, pink, white, yellow, green, coral, coral red). Several color combinations such as raspberry edges, geneva edges and fantasy flowers were also represented. Species plants and species hybrids that had not been available in the previous studies were also included. The plants were selected to represent a wide assortment of African violet types and should have represented a good cross section of the diversity and different genotypes (genetic combinations) in the African violet gene pool.

The results indicated that although the leaf anthocyanin compound was not present as a red backing in all plants, those plants that did have the compound had the same chemical. The color differences in red leaf backing observed between various plants appears to be caused by differences in the chemical's quantity, not in the kind of chemical present. The various mutations in anthocyanin pigments that give the various flower colors in African violets are not present in the leaf pigments.

Every plant examined in the study showed two phenolic compounds in the leaves. The species plants (Table 1) and species hybrids (Table 2) all had two phenolic compounds in the leaves. By coincidence, the species plants lacked the anthocyanin pigment

while all the species hybrids contained the pigment. Therefore, all of the plants examined fit into the two major classes of leaf pigment types reported by Ives and Smith (1992a).

One plant in the study, 'Arapaho', originally appeared to have a single phenolic pigment. This plant also lacks the anthocyanin pigment, making it similar to *S. shumensis* in leaf pigment combinations (Ives and Smith, 1992a). However, the missing phenolic pigment was not the same as that missing in *S. shumensis*, possibly representing a new class of leaf pigment types. Later tests, however, using very concentrated leaf extracts, eventually detected both phenolic pigments in 'Arapaho'. It appears that the second pigment was present, but it was in a very low concentration for some reason. Although 'Arapaho' does not represent a new pigment class, it does show a unique condition that was not detected in any other plant tested. The low level of the second phenolic pigment does not appear to be linked to flower color as all other coral flowered plants tested had regular levels of the leaf pigment. Perhaps the testing of a larger number of different cultivars will reveal others with the same pattern as 'Arapaho'.

Because the single leaf phenolic pattern has only been found in *S. shumensis*, and *S. teitensis*, we suggest that the trait is a possible genetic recessive with a very low gene frequency in African violet populations. *S. shumensis* is reported to be one of the species originally used in developing today's miniature cultivars. If correct, one would expect inbreeding and other hybridizing efforts to have placed the trait in some of today's miniature cultivars. A number of miniatures were examined in the study, but the single phenolic leaf pattern of *S. shumensis* has not been found in any of them.

Recent reports have suggested that the habitat for many of the *Saintpaulia* species is disappearing rapidly in Africa. Although most of the species are in cultivation, the amount of genetic diversity represented by these plants is unknown and may be very limited. It appears highly probable, for example, that most of the species plants in the United States are descendants of only one or two plants that were collected in the wild. Efforts are being made by The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and others to identify the current world-wide holdings of the *Saintpaulia* species and ascertain the amount of genetic diversity they contain. If a species such as *S. shumensis* that was used extensively for plant breeding has not contributed the genetic trait for a single leaf phenolic compound to today's cultivars, what will be the fate of genetic traits found in species such as *S. intermedia* or *S. orbicularis* that have not been used for hybridizing? Traits that are unique to populations of these and other species may be lost forever if their habitats are not preserved or if they are not soon represented in plant collections. It is not only important to have a representative of each species in our collections, but we also need a number of individuals representing the different genetic types of each species. Without comprehensive collections representing the range of diversity within a species, traits may be lost as wild populations of plants are destroyed.

Although the single phenolic leaf trait is not known to be a desirable characteristic for hybridization, genetic traits for disease or pest resistance may exist in wild populations of the *Saintpaulia* species. Until studies are conducted to evaluate the richness of the genetic diversity of the species plants currently found in collections, we recommend the support of all efforts to preserve the wild *Saintpaulia* populations. Today's cultivated plants represent less than 100 years of work with genetic material collected from the wild. The loss of the wild species and the genetic material they represent may cause irreparable harm to the future of African violet hybridization efforts.

Acknowledgements

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Ives, W. and J. Smith, 1992b. Are the Leaf and Flower Anthocyanins Linked in African Violets? African Violet Magazine 45(5):19-20.

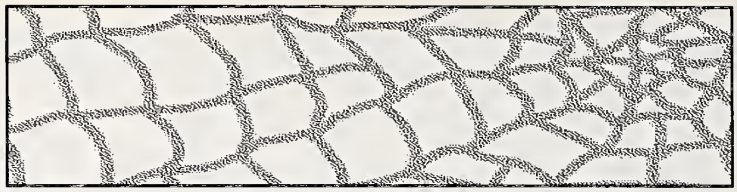
Table 1. Previously untested species plants. All lack the leaf anthocyanin pigment but show the two phenolic pigments.

Saintpaulia Robertson
S. grandifolia 237
Saintpaulia white ionantha

Table 2. Species hybrids. All have the leaf anthocyanin and two phenolic pigments.

S. difficilis X 'Fire and Ice'
S difficilis X 'Christmas Carol'
S. difficilis X 'Fickle Flirt'
S. grandifolia X 'Phantom Flash'
Sigi Falls X 'Fickle Flirt

What is the Internet & Why Should I Care?



Documents on the World-Wide Web/Internet are interconnected similarly to a spider's web.

by Bill and Ellen Beckerman

Everywhere we turn nowadays, it seems as if we see signs pointing to the "Internet." Often called the "Information SuperHighway," the Internet is a series of computers connected via telephone or special wiring (called a network). This system was developed in the 1970s by the military industrial base primarily for communication between the Department of the Defense, military contractors and universities involved with military research. This network stretched across the U.S. and was later developed to reach across the world. The typical computer back then was huge and needed specially air-conditioned, glass-enclosed rooms to work. Most of the men who operated these computers really did wear glasses, pocket protectors and white lab coats! The user-interface (the way we interact with the computer) was text-based and driven by cryptic command codes which required the operator to have a computer engineering degree to do just about anything.

BORING!! So what is all this excitement about?

Today, anyone with a PC or a Macintosh home computer can connect with millions of other people and find almost unlimited information about virtually any subject at the click of a mouse. When the typical PC or Macintosh user connects to the Internet, he or she is usually participating in the "World Wide Web." The Web is a series of interconnected documents that reside on computers and are part of the Internet. These documents are typically graphics-based (they use pictures to communicate) instead of text-based. Many of your choices are easily made by using the mouse to click on interesting topics (usually seen as blue underlined text) or buttons. These buttons take you automatically to more information and/or to other sites on the Internet to see more information, whether it's around the block or around the world. Think of the Internet (a world-wide network) as all the filaments making up a spider's web. Think of the sites (documents) where we get information as the spots where those filaments intersect. Each site has links (connections) to other sites which have links to other sites and so on across the world. Hence, the name World-Wide Web. It is possible to start out in your home state, get information from the AVSA's web site in Texas, and then move on to a web site in Japan!

AVSA's web site located at: http:/www/avsa.org

Sights on the Information SuperHighway

Let us be your tour guide this issue. Of course, our favorite topic is African violets. When we tried our first search on "African Violets", we found over 30 possible sites to visit that contained those words!

We highly recommend that your first trip be to AVSA's web site in Beaumont, Texas. It's brand new and beautiful. (Although our pictures shown here are in black and white, these pictures are actually shown in color on the site.) There are many photos of violets from our national convention last May. If you were unable to attend the convention, visit this site to see the winners.

In addition, there is interesting information that will help you grow award-winning violets. One of the sections that you should be sure to visit is "FAQs," which is an abbreviation for Frequently Asked Questions. (Most web sites have FAQs sections. It is usually the best place to start, the first time you visit a new site.)

We'll take you to a new location with every column. Look in Ruth Rumsey's editorial column next issue for the featured web site, it might be in Japan or Australia!

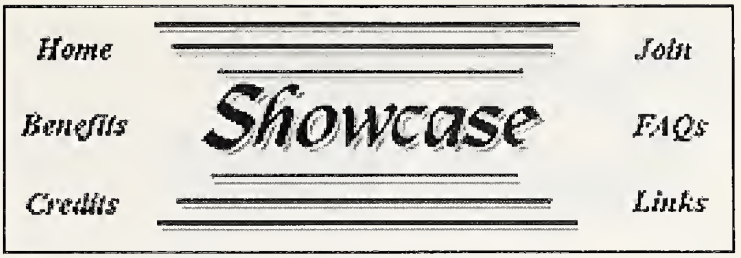
Finding the On Ramp

Getting on the Web/Internet is often confusing. We'll provide you with the following map. *There are three items that are essential to connecting to the Internet: a computer, a modem, and a telephone line.*

The computer can be a Macintosh or a PC. The modem should be the fastest modem that you can afford, usually around 28.8 kbps. Many people already own modems that run at speeds of 9600 kbps or lower. A slower modem does not mean you can't connect to the Internet, it means you will have to wait longer for the pictures and text to appear on your screen. You *do not* need to get an additional telephone line just for your modem. (However, using your primary telephone line to dial into the Internet *does* mean you can't receive telephone calls while you are using the modem.)

Paying the Tolls

Once you have your computer, modem and telephone line you'll need to find an *Internet Service Provider*, or ISP. Most of these companies can be found in the Yellow Pages of your telephone directory. We can't recommend specific providers because they vary from region to region. What a service provider *does* is provide you with a location to get on the Internet network just like an "on ramp" on a highway. You will have to pay a "toll" for this service. DO LOOK AROUND for service providers and ASK QUESTIONS. A service provider may be as small as the "guy next door" or as large as AT&T.



There is enough business now so that you should be able to find a service provider that charges you *a flat fee per month no matter how much you use the service.* The fee should be no more than $25 per month and more than likely it will be less. The connection should be available to you 24 hours per day every day of the week. The telephone number that the service provider gives you should be a local telephone number or an 800 number. (Note: If you pay for your local telephone service by the minute instead of by flat fee, you will need to factor these costs into your budget.) The service provider should include the software program needed to connect to the Internet *as part of your service.* That program is called a Web Browser. The most typical (and, in our opinion, best) one is called Netscape Navigator, made by Netscape Communications Corporation. It's available for both PC and Macintosh computers. (Note: Macintosh users, be sure to select a service provider that is Macintosh knowledgeable. Most service providers are PC/Mac or PC only.)

Taking Public Transportation

Does this sound too complicated? *"Take the bus!"* More and more public libraries are purchasing computers for the main purpose of making the Internet available to the public. They have people who are trained and willing to help you. These services are usually free to library card holders, however, each library will have its own restrictions. (In addition, many libraries can help you find the name of a dependable local service provider when you decide to try this at home.)

Many public schools offer adult education classes for nominal fees and some schools are willing to teach people in exchange for volunteer time. If you live around a university, there may be seminars or lectures offered to the public and/or you may find one of the new, very popular, coffee houses that sell coffee and time on their computers for very reasonable prices. Whether you "take the bus" or jump into a "car" from your own home, trying out the Information Superhighway can be exciting and fun!

—A husband and wife team, Bill and Ellen Beckerman are Apple Macintosh computer consultants who run their own business in Central New York State called Technical Center Cooperative.

Have You Tried This?

Wooden bowls or boxes make nice plant containers if first lined with polyethylene plastic sheeting. The plastic can be stapled or tacked to the wood where it forms a barrier against water and fertilizer stains. Use a thick layer of drainage in the bottom.

Lone Star AV Council Newsletter

Some growers and botanical gardens have begun using the commercial cleaning product, Formula 409, as a pesticide. Here is one dilution recipe: Take one pint of rubbing alcohol and dump it into a clean gallon jug. Fill the empty container with 409 and pour it in with the alcohol. Fill the gallon jug with water and mix. Then, fill a spray bottle with the mix. (Mark the jug with an indelible marker so that you know what is inside.) This is a safe insecticide that can be used to combat mealy bugs, scale, and mites. Use the spray in the shade or in the cooler morning hours, since high temperatures may cause some drying action from the alcohol. Be sure not to use the industrial strength 409, as it is formulated differently than the household product. As with any new procedure, try it on only one or two plants at first to make sure it does not produce unintended problems.

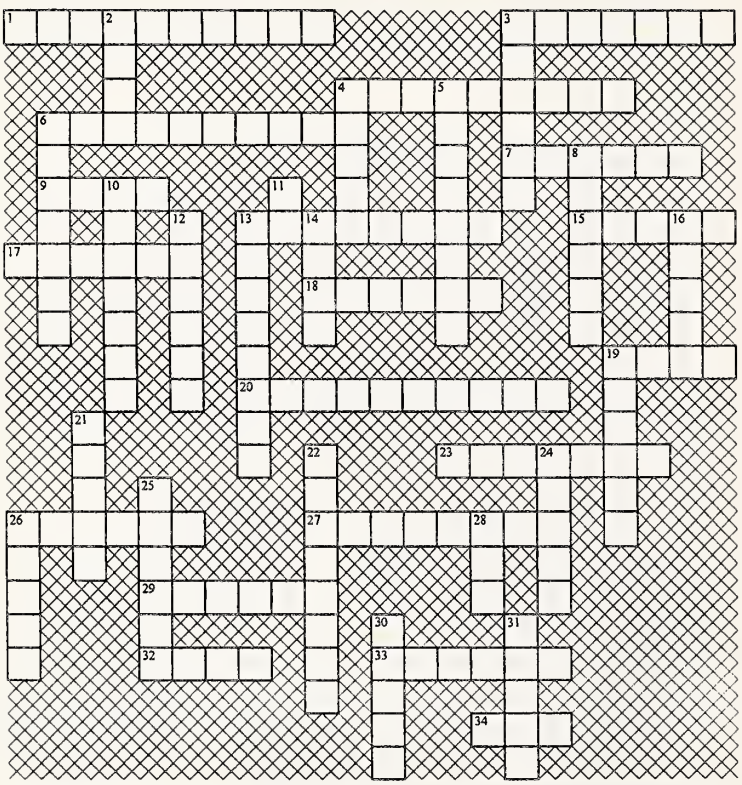
The California Council News

Do you have problems growing small plantlets or very small leaves? Try using a 9 or 10 oz. clear plastic drinking glass as a cover for these plants. Use a hot soldering iron to make four or five small holes in the bottom of the glass and place it on top of the plant. If you have the right size glass, it will fit nicely over the rim of a 2 1/4 or 2 1/2 inch pot. The glass becomes a miniature greenhouse and the plant will grown quickly in the moist environment. Remove the glass when leaves touch the sides.

"Chatter" The Journal of the AVS of Canada

Crossword Your Knowledge of Violet Growing

by Barbara Pershing
Cedar Falls, IA



ACROSS

1. Encourages root growth which in turn promotes blossoming.
3. Produces numerous crowns.
4. The plant family to which African violets belong.
6. Plant food.
7. Seed bearing female portion of the flower.
9. Bare stem when plant loses its lower leaves.
13. A type of variegation.
15. Center of plant where new leaves form.
17. Gesneriad
18. Pollen bearing male portion of flower.
19. Leaf with white or light spot at base next to stem.
20. Foliage with a combination of two or more colors.
23. Distinct, raised areas between leaf veins.
26. Another name for Lillian Jarrett variegation.
27. Pest that makes white, cottony specks on stem, and petioles that look like spilled perlite.
29. To remove buds or bud stems.
32. Draws water from a water-filled container up into the soil.
33. Yellow powdery substance found on the anthers of the flower.
34. Unopened or partly opened blossom.

DOWN

2. Blossom having five equally spaced and sized petals.
3. Insects that leave yellow pollen lying on open blossoms.
4. To remove dead blossoms, damaged leaves, etc. from a plant.
5. Needed for foliage and rapid growth.
6. Blossom with random spots and streaks of a different color or shade.
8. Four leaves showing without evidence of a bud; beginning of a new plant.
10. Plant which cannot be propagated true except from suckers.
11. Measure of soil acidity or alkalinity.
12. Result of cross-pollinating different varieties.
13. Named variety.
14. African Violet Society of America
16. Provided from top, bottom, wick, Texas style, or matting.
19. White edged blossom.
21. Two upper petals of blossom smaller than bottom three.
22. 70% is ideal.
24. Necessary for plants to bloom.
25. White-grey powder appearing on buds, blossoms or foliage.
26. Cause tight, grey, hairy center leaves.
28. Plain green leaves.
30. Plant that differs in some characteristic from its parent plant.
31. Saintpaulia

Solution on page 55

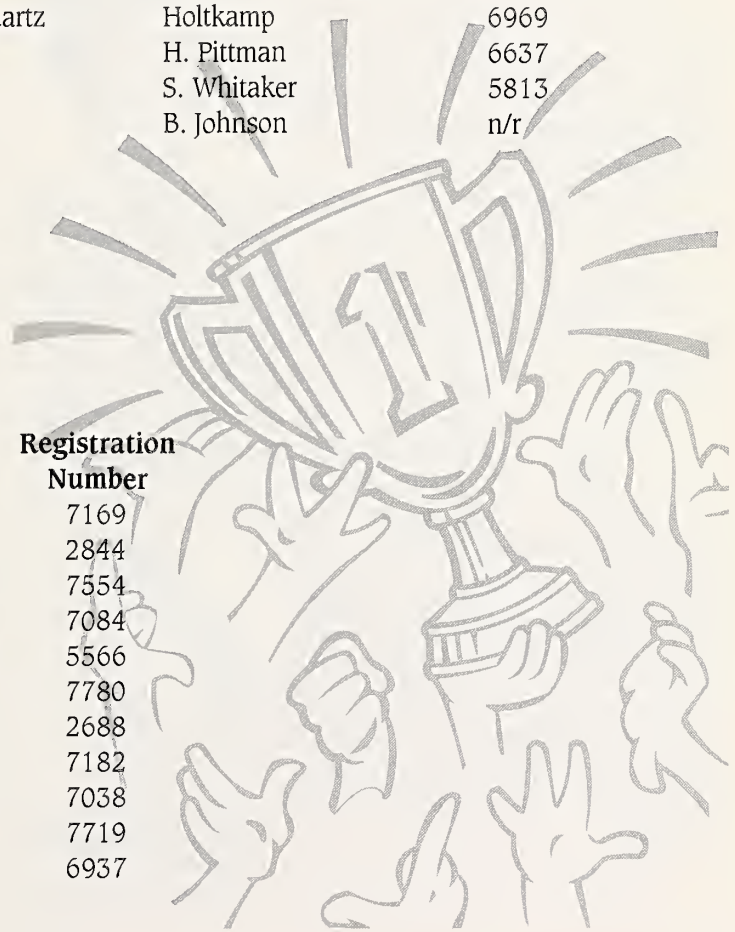
The BEST of the BEST

1996 BEST VARIETIES

Floyd Lawson • 1100 W. Huntington Dr. #21 • Arcadia, CA 91007

Nearly 700 members of the AVSA sent in their preferences for 1,923 different cultivars. It is obvious that we have so many new and old African violets that the choice is becoming more difficult each year. Here are the 19 varieties that 50 or more of you said were your favorites. Since the list, which qualifies for 50 votes, gets smaller each year, I have also listed those which do not technically make the 1996 "Best Variety List" but which did receive between 40 and 50 votes. Thank you to everyone who took time to respond and to each who gave me added encouragement along the way.

Number of Votes	Name of Cultivar	Hybridizer	Registration Number
150	Irish Flirt	S. Sorano	7577
124	Precious Pink	H. Pittman	6025
121	Tomahawk	K. Stork	7269
121	Melodie Kimi	Sunnyside/Levy	8100
117	Picasso	M. Trembly	6924
117	Happy Cricket	Hollada	5726
116	Ode to Beauty	Cox/B. Johnson	7677
87	Granger's Wonderland	Eyerdom	3419
77	Pixie Blue	L. Lyon	2598
75	Tiger	I. Fredette	3433
69	Rob's Sticky Wicket	R. Robinson	6467
68	Snuggles	L. Lyon	5018
68	Nortex's Snowkist Haven	B. Johnson	6046
64	Ness' Crinkle Blue	D. Ness	8136
61	Mickey Mouse	H. Inpijn	n/r
61	Optimara Rose Quartz	Holtkamp	6969
58	Little Pro	H. Pittman	6637
51	Splendiferous	S. Whitaker	5813
50	International	B. Johnson	n/r



The Runners Up

Number of Votes	Name of Cultivar	Hybridizer	Registration Number
46	Milky Way Trail	J. Stahl	7169
46	French Lilac	J. Swift	2844
46	Rain Man	M. Burns	7554
44	Pat Champagne	H. Pittman	7084
42	Everdina	Inpijn/Nadeau	5566
42	Ocean Eyes	M. Burns	7780
42	Amazing Grace	Soults	2688
42	Ness' Viking Maiden	D. Ness	7182
41	Jean-Pierre Croteau	D. Croteau	7038
40	Windy Day	Stork/Boone	7719
40	Optimara Little Amethyst	Holtkamp	6937

UTILIZING NATURAL DRIED MATERIAL

by Joyce Stenger
Houston, TX

During the winter months, a designer can supplement fresh flowers with natural dried materials for decorative arrangements. The practiced arranger sees beauty in every growing thing and even things that do not grow. These grasses, weeds, seed pods, weathered wood, and rocks to the casual observer might be rejected as too prosaic.

Palm Spathe

The palm spathe can be used as the backbone of a bold design. This blossom cover is light weight, yet appears dense with a solid color. It is not hard to imagine some curved fern in front of the palm spathe and a ruffled African violet plant with dark-reverse colored foliage nestled at the base. This design would accent rich colors.

Tree Fungi

Discover the colors in natural tree fungi. Attach several fungi to a curvy wooden base. From behind the fungi add some magnolia leaves or other material for height. In front of the fungi add fresh clusters of African violet blossoms in staggered sizes with the largest in the center. Fill in with some grape ivy. This would emphasize mass exquisitely!

Manzanita Branch

Attach the Manzanita branch to a flat base. Anchor some variegated ivy and wind it up the branch from the bottom. Completely cover the lower portion of the branch. Add a multi-crowned African violet trailer at the base under the "arm" of the branch. Include some monkey grass near the back of the branch as filler. Walla! A design that is airy and entwined.

There is bold simplicity in a large chunk of weathered driflwood. Place this piece in a large ceramic dish and begin to flll in with living plants such as ferns, grasses, and ground cover of different shapes and sizes. Add several small miniature African violets. The interesting feature of this dish garden is its textures.

Weathered Driftwood

Seashell

Look at shells as a rich source of intricate patterns and shapes for an underwater design. Take one such shell and attach to a weight such as a rock base. Inside the cup of the shell place some branches from a gesneriad plant; add some tendrils of heather, and right in the center place an exciting African violet blossom. Drop the design into a clear bowl full of water and adjust its position. Crystal clear idea!

Rocks and Pebbles

Rocks or pebbles can be used to disguise mechanics of floral or underwater designs. However, most impressively, pebbles are an important portion of any terrarium. A variety of colors and sizes can be used for pathways, ponds, and waterfalls which all add to the general landscape necessary for the scene.

The holiday season is just the right occasion to create centerpieces using African violets surrounded by colorful autumn leaves. Chose contrasting colors that harmonize with the season. An added touch would be candles which light up not only the centerpiece, but also the holiday.

Oak Leaf

When staging a show there can be areas in the show room that lack interest. Perhaps a corner is left empty or a spot next to the guest book. Place a large basket or vase of pampas grass in that area to create the feeling of elegance and completeness to the showroom. Try some next time.

Pampas Grass

Just imagine adding transparent thread to several tiny pine cones and attaching those to some pine branches. The whole thing could be hanging from a dowel as a stabile. Just add fresh African violet blossoms in orchid picks among the pine branches. Stabiles need only imply movement. The wind-swept look of long-needled pine does that if all are turned in a circular pattern.

Pine Cone

These items can be precious treasure for the seasoned designer. Winter is the time to be gathering for next spring's show. Watch for unusual dried natural materials in your area woodlands and local garden store or nursery.

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In Memory

PEGGY RIOS

Peggy Rios of Springfield, PA passed away in early June, 1996. A co-founder of the Springfield AVS in 1948, Peggy remained active in the club throughout the years and was recently named Honorary Chairman for the year 1997. She was also a long-standing member of AVSA and AGGS and an African violet judge whose expertise was appreciated in shows throughout the country. Peggy was instrumental in getting the African Violet Stamp issued by the US Post Office.

HELEN SHORE

The Syracuse AVS was saddened by the recent death of long time member Helen Shore. Helen was a past president, show chair, and treasurer of the Syracuse AVS. She was also an active member of the New York City AVS and AVSA.

MARY JANE HOPPER

The Suncoast AVS lost a ray of sunshine with the passing of charter member, Mary Jane Hopper. Mary Jane was always an active and willing help with club projects. She also served as Sunshine Committee Chairwoman for many years.

LEWIS COOK

Lewis Cook, of Gainesville, NY, passed away in March, 1996. Lew was the last living charter member of the Livingston County and Vicinity AVS, was active in the formation of the New York State Society and a long time member of AVSA.

HATTIE LARSON

Hattie Larson, a member of the Capitol City AVS, Sacramento, CA, passed away in March, 1996. Hattie had been a member since the early 1970's and generously shared her knowledge and violets with members of the club and others.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

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2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
4. If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
5. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
6. Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

PS Form **3526**, September 1995 *(Reverse)*

AFRICAN VIOLET crafts

by Alice Wilder
Beaumont, TX

Editor's Note: Alice Wilder is an active member of the AVS of Beaumont, Texas, and is one of the club members who help tend the shelves of African violets on display in the AVSA office. As Alice experimented with these African violet crafts, she brought her results to the office and shared them with us before presenting a program on AV crafts to the club.

Most of us are probably attracted to the African violet because of the blossoms and we usually have favorites that reach out to us. There are any number of ways to preserve those very special blossoms for gift-giving or for our own enjoyment.

For crafts, begin by pressing the prettiest, freshest blossoms. The deep, dark shades usually turn out best, but when a pastel pink, blue, or lavender retains its color after pressing, you will have a very lovely flower. You never know exactly how the color will turn out until it is pressed, so it is well worth your while to press some of the lighter shades. Single blossoms press better than doubles or semi-doubles. I have had good luck using a flower press. Blossoms may also be placed between sheets of blotter paper which are then placed in a phone book or catalogue with bricks stacked on top. It takes two to three weeks for pressed flowers to dry. Flowers can also be dried in Silica Gel (a fine, white, sand-like material), however, I find that I break too many blossoms removing them from the gel once they are dried. I have also dried violets in a food dehydrator, but they proved to be too delicate, shriveling and losing color. Even the heartier doubles did not do well, although a friend had excellent results with roses in her food dehydrator. Nor did a microwave work for me.

You will want to dry your greenery at the same time you dry your blossoms. African violet leaves do not dry well, as they contain too much water and get mushy. Even mini leaves do not give the best results. However, miniature rose leaves, leather-leaf fern, flat-leaf fern, ti leaves (Iron plant), as well as many other flat-leaved foliage dry very well. Ti leaves are quite large and can be cut into various sizes and shapes to complement your blossoms. You may have suitable foliage in your collection of house plants or in your yard. If not, you can purchase foliage from your local florist quite reasonably.

Two things to remember: (1) the blossoms are very fragile when dried, and must be handled with utmost care as they break so easily; (2) to retain color and protect blossoms, they must be covered with glass or clear vinyl, or placed in a glass dish with a lid. If you are making a wreath or dried arrangement, you will want to use a dried-flower spray to protect and preserve the blossoms.

You may want to refer to the March/April 1996 *African Violet Magazine*, "Pressing African Violet Blossoms," p. 41 by Sharon Holtzman.

There are any number of crafts you can make with the dried blossoms. Supplies can be purchased from your local craft store.

BOOKMARKS AND GREETING CARD SUPPLIES:

- Blank bookmarks or greeting cards
- Pressed blossoms and foliage
- Craft glue
- HeatnBond Vinyl or clear ConTact Paper (HeatnBond is very easy to use)
- Parchment paper**

Arrange the blossoms and foliage on the bookmark or greeting card and anchor with a few drops of glue. (**If desired, cut small piece of parchment and write or type name of flower and foliage on it, then lightly burn the edges for an antique-look. Glue the parchment to the back of the bookmark.) Cut the HeatnBond a bit larger than the bookmark and apply it front and back, according to package directions, using an iron to bond it. The greeting card will have the HeatnBond on the front only. Trim the vinyl to fit the bookmark or card. Placemats can also be made using this same method, however, you might want to use clear ConTact paper for a more durable covering.

PHOTO CUP SUPPLIES:

- Plastic cups with insert for photos
- Pressed blossoms and foliage
- Craft glue
- Pretty paper, suitable back for flowers
- HeatnBond vinyl or clear ConTact paper

Take the cup apart and remove the photo insert. Glue background paper to the back of the photo insert, arrange and glue blossoms and foliage onto the areas where you would place the photos. Apply HeatnBond or ConTact paper according to instructions. Reassemble the cup.

PICTURE FRAME SUPPLIES:

- Picture frame with glass

Pressed flowers and foliage
Craft glue

Place the blossoms or flower arrangement in the frame, lightly glue to the background and reassemble. Or if you have a picture with a mat, glue the blossoms to the mat and show off your prettiest picture or photo surrounded by a mat of African violets. Blossoms can also be glued on the frame itself, along with ribbons, bows, shells, or other decorations. This would require the use of the dried-flower spray to protect the blossoms.

WREATH OR DRIED ARRANGEMENT SUPPLIES:

Wreath (grapevine or styrofoam)
Sphagnum moss
Pressed blossoms and foliage
Hot glue
Ribbons, bows, shells, baby's breath, etc.
Dried flower spray

Spray blossoms and foliage with dried flower spray. With hot glue, attach sphagnum moss to wreath. Arrange and glue blossoms and foliage to wreath. Add bows, ribbons, etc.

Blossoms can also be used for decoupage. Once you have primed, painted (using a flat latex paint), and sanded your wooden table, plaque, or picture frame, glue the blossoms and foliage flat on the surface, then cover with the decoupage medium, or very lightly spray with as many as twenty-one coats of urethane, letting each coat dry thoroughly before the next application.

Dried blossoms are very fragile and can break easily even though you have handled them carefully. But, all is not lost. Instead of tossing them, put them in a small, clear jar with a lid, add a few acorns, pieces of pine cone, dried foliage, and a few drops of scented oil, and you have a lovely potpourri. Tied with a ribbon and bow, it is a treasured gift.

Flowers aren't just for looking at anymore. For years, the French have used edible flowers in decorating food, as well as edible ingredients; nasturtiums, roses, pansies, petunias, chrysanthemums, squash blossoms, and of course, violets, to name just a few. **Remember, of course, to use only those blossoms that have not been treated with insecticides and chemicals.**

Fresh flowers and leaves may be used in decorating cakes, cookies, trays of food, individual plates, etc. They are lovely in a punchbowl. The petals may be added to salads. They have a short life-span, so blossoms should be added shortly before being used. Flowers are edible, leaves are not.

ICE CUBES:

Place blossoms in each compartment of the ice tray; fill half full with water. Freeze. Once frozen, fill the tray the rest of the way with water and freeze. The ice cubes are especially pretty in glasses of lemonade, 7-up or other clear drinks. Fresh blossoms may also be used in tropical fruit drinks instead of hibiscus.

CANDIED BLOSSOMS:

Fresh blossom with stems attached
Small paint brush (from a child's water color paint set)
1/4 cup sugar
2 Tbs. water

Bring sugar and water to boil. You want a thin syrup, but cool it enough to prevent the blossom from wilting. With a brush, gently paint a thin coating of syrup on front and back of blossoms. Dry on wax paper.

SUGARED BLOSSOMS:

Fresh blossom
Egg white (may be unbeaten or very lightly beaten)
Superfine sugar (put sugar in blender or coffee grinder, being careful to stop before it turns to powdered sugar)
Paint brush

Very lightly paint blossoms with egg white; while moist, sprinkle with superfine sugar. Dry on wax paper.

CHOCOLATE COVERED BLOSSOMS:

Fresh blossoms and leaves
Dipping chocolate (I used Wilton's Candy Melts; white for dark blossoms and chocolate for pastel blossoms. Chocolate kisses, chocolate squares, and chips do not melt right.)
Paint brush

Melt dipping chocolate or chocolate melts according to directions on package. Keep the chocolate at a melted consistency for best results. With the brush, paint the blossoms with a very thin layer of chocolate. Paint front and back, only the front, a few petals, or just tinge the petals with chocolate. I did not have good luck dipping the whole blossom in the chocolate.

Although not edible, African violet leaves can also be painted with chocolate for decorative purposes. On TV, I have seen chocolate painted on leaves, and when dried, gently peeled away from leaf in one piece. I didn't have any luck doing this, however, the chocolate kept breaking.

It is very important that you keep the chocolate melted while working with it, and that you brush it on in very thin layers. Also, melt only the chocolate you will use at one time, as it does not reheat well the next day.

Once finished, do not put the blossoms in a covered container, and do not refrigerate. Use the coated blossoms within 24 to 36 hours, as they begin to lose quality after that. Some blossoms lend themselves better to sugaring and chocolate-coating than others, so I would suggest you experiment with these methods before using them for entertaining. The flowers are fun to work with and beautiful results can be achieved. African violets can be a feast for the palate as well as for the eye.

CONSTRUCTING AND JUDGING DISH GARDENS

by Cathy Cornibe
Santa Cruz, CA

If you haven't entered a design in a show yet, try a dish garden! I'll help you. While you are constructing it, you should keep in mind how it will be judged.

AVSA SCALE OF POINTS FOR DISH GARDENS

Landscape Plan	40 points
Suitability of Materials	20 points
Condition of materials	20 points
Cultural perfection	10 points
Relation to container	10 points

LANDSCAPE PLAN (40 points)

You want to create a miniature landscape to portray the class title. The final effect should be of an established planting with a contrast of texture, size, color, and height to add interest.

SUITABILITY OF MATERIALS (20 points)

Pick plants that portray the title and ones that would grow together. If accessories are used, don't overdo it. They should be appropriate and reasonably in scale with the container and each other.

CONDITION OF MATERIALS (20 points)

Plants should be in good shape. The container should be clean.

CULTURAL PERFECTION (10 points)

Plants should be well-grown and free of pests and diseases. Violets should have a reasonable amount of bloom.

RELATION TO CONTAINER (10 points)

The size and amount of the planted material should be in proportion to the container. The container should not dominate the design.

Reread the schedule. Spread some newspapers on a table to minimize the mess. Remember that all plants must be planted in the dish garden and that no cut plant material is allowed.

Start by putting a layer of gravel in the container for drainage. Then add some soil, a little at a time, varying its height to create interest.

Add some plants. Take breaks often to look at the overall design. Sometimes you have to move a few plants, or replace them with others, to get the look you want. If you are doing your dish garden more than a day or two before the show, put an empty pot in the spot for the African violet so it can be planted there later. Depending on the class title, cover most of the soil and perlite with sifted soil, bark, ground cover, gravel, sand, or whatever is appropriate. After you are finished, brush off any excess soil that is on the plants.

Many dish gardens could have been Best-in-Class with a few changes. Refer to the following drawings.

Class Title: "Down Under"

This dish garden has a few problems.

1. The overall height is too short for the size of the container. As a rough guideline, the height should be about 1 1/2 times the width of the container.
2. Although a kangaroo could help to portray the title, this one is too big. It is very distracting!
3. This violet needs more blooms and has several gaps in its symmetry.

This dish garden is better!

1. It has more overall height, and the plants are more varied in height.
2. The container is shallow.
3. A small kangaroo, partially hidden behind the violet, helps to portray the class title.
4. This violet is much nicer than the one above. It has more blooms, it is more symmetrical, and its lighter foliage stands out better in a dark container.

Reprinted with permission from "The CA Council News", a joint publication of the Northern and Southern CA AV Councils.

My Green Monster

by Johan J. Grunder
South Africa

I am a reasonably new member of the Cape African Violet Society and therefore have little experience in the culture of these beautiful little plants. Nevertheless, I am thoroughly hooked and all because of an African violet that simply refused to die.

I received a small plant as a gift in 1990. It remained nameless and also colorless, as it had never flowered before. I planted it in a fairly large-sized pot, watered it regularly and added liquid fowl manure. The potting mix was of the ordinary garden variety and it simply stood outside among my orchids. As any violet grower knows, the above situation is the perfect recipe for disaster. Every time I watered or foliar fed my orchids, the violet suffered the same fate.

Although ugly, pale yellow marks appeared on the leaves, the plant grew well above expectation. Leaves, leaves and more leaves grew, but no flowers appeared. I broke off the ugly yellow leaves and threw them under the shelf among the ferns where they rooted and produced babies.

The gift plant grew ever larger, but still there were no flowers. I shook it out of its pot and broke it into four pieces which I planted directly into the ground. All four pieces grew as though they were never disturbed. No matter how rough the treatment,the plant simply refused to die. At the end of 1991, I had eighteen plants from the original. I kept on dividing and planting and thought they looked quite attractive as a ground cover under the orchid shelves. It goes without saying that by this time I had lost all interest in "the green monster" that just kept on growing and never producing any flowers. They just kept growing under the shelves of orchids and whenever the orchids received their feeding of high nitrogen content, the little green monsters suffered along.

Now, it happened that last year I bought a few African violets at a chain store and came home with my purchases, pleased with myself. While displaying the blooming violets on my fridge, I inspected them closely. That's when I noticed that they were planted not in ordinary soil, but a special mix. Back to the shop I went, where I bought a bag of special violet mix, some violet fertilizer and a pot that looked the same as those that contained the violets I had purchased.

After I got home, I took a piece of "the green monster" and snipped off a piece of the root system with a pair of scissors. A good wash under the outside tap got rid of all the sand around the roots and in the kitchen sink, I washed off all the dirt and dust on the leaves with warm water. "The green monster", now much smaller, was planted without much ceremony. After watering well with lukewarm water, making sure the excess was drained off, it was placed in a saucer among the others on the fridge. After about a month, new growth of a much darker green started appearing. Side shoots formed, but not as fast as those on the outside. The leaves were shiny, and with the aid of an old shaving brush with soft bristles, I kept the dust off of "the green monster" as well as the other plants.

Six months after transplanting, I noticed seven flower stalks which appeared between the leaf axils of the plant. I felt ecstatic that my plant was finally going to flower. Day by day I watched the progress of the flower stalks and finally, after five weeks, the top buds were ready to open. With patience, and full of expectation, I pampered the plant. One afternoon, when I got home from work, my plant stood waiting for me with seven half-open flowers. The next day they were fully open; beautiful blue semi-double flowers! A few days later the remaining buds also opened and they all looked like fine crinkle paper. I went to the library, straight away, to obtain more information about these beautiful plants with their velvety leaves and blossoms like magnificent jewels. Armed with Joan Halford's book, "Growing African Violets in South Africa," I returned home, and after reading about half way through the book, I discovered why my plant had become such a huge green monster, and how I could avoid the same mistake with my other plants. I also learned that my gift plant was of the trailer variety and that was why it showed such phenomenal growth.

I have since joined the Cape African Violet Society, and through their publication, "Violets Agrowing," learned what violets require for good growth; a good potting mix, the right pot, regular correct feeding, clean leaves and proper light, although not direct sunlight.

When at times I feel a bit low in spirit, I look at my green monster and think of all it suffered before coming to its full potential. I then get inspired anew to just let it stand proud and say "Look at me – who can put me down!"

Reprinted with permission from "Violets Agrowing", a publication of the Cape AVS, South Africa

by Charlotte C. Eberhard
Lakeside, AZ

Raising African Violets... *In the Desert*

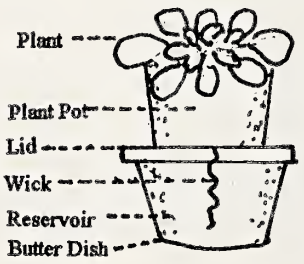
Whenever the new African Violet Magazine appears I regularly turn first, to the "How-To" articles. For fifteen years I have tried various recommended procedures for raising African violets in the Southwest desert. Some techniques have worked with spectacular success and others resulted in equally spectacular disasters. Living in a desert does pose certain unique problems for moisture-loving African violets. Perhaps others might profit from my mistakes as well as my successes.

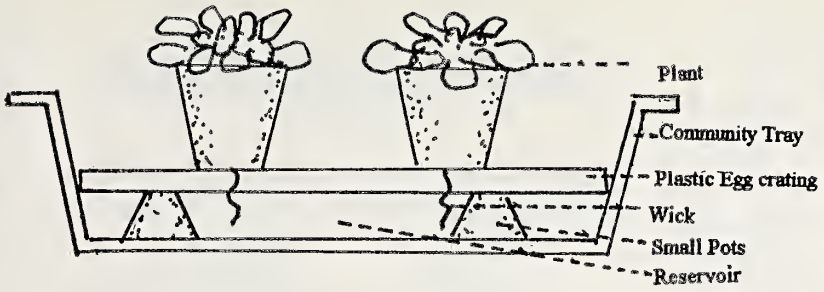
Our current life style involves living for the six months of winter in the Phoenix area of Arizona, at an elevation of about 1200 feet. The other six months we spend high in the Arizona White Mountains located in the east central part of the state, at an elevation of approximately 6600 feet. Both of these areas technically are deserts. The average yearly rainfall in the valley is about 7 inches while on the mountain, rainfall averages a few inches more. Our humidity is always low and occasionally drops to single digit values at both elevations. In addition, our water in both locations is extremely "hard", tends to be alkaline and contains many dissolved salts. For obvious reasons the use of rainwater is not an option. My violets must make the yearly round trip up and down the mountain when we do. For convenience when traveling, I limit myself to minis, semiminis and a few trailers.

In my opinion, our extremely hot summer temperatures are not a matter of major concern, in spite of the national weather reports. In a true desert, maximum and minimum temperatures vary in a single twenty-four hour period by as much as twenty or thirty degrees. Our very high readings are confined to only a couple of hours in the late afternoon and lower readings prevail in the very early morning. The rest of the twenty four hours have temperatures somewhere in between. The house in the valley is refrigerated. My violets live where I do and seem content to accept the same temperatures I do without damage. Of course I do see to it that those plants living on windowsills are not up against the glass or exposed to direct sun for more than a few minutes. After we move to the mountain for the summer, the temperature generally runs about twenty degrees lower than that in the Phoenix area and again poses no particular problem.

Watering is the biggest problem. I have tried all sorts of techniques, including matting, putting them in saucers and watering from the top, bottom or any other way I could think of. I have tried various "self waterers" but the holes quickly clog up in our hard water. I even tried wicking the mats from reservoirs located at either end of the trays. None of these techniques seemed to work very well. With the low humidity, things dried out while I watched them and I was forever forgetting to add more water. My plants were constantly stressed by being either too wet or too dry.

For me, the solution was to wick everything; the small ones as well as the large ones. Some of the plants sit on plastic butter dishes. Each dish has a lid with a tiny hole cut in it to allow the wicks to dangle into a standard fertilizer solution. (I use Peters 12-36-14 made up in the concentration of 1/4 tsp. per gallon of water). The rest of the plants are in trays on egg-crate plastic shelves elevated from the bottom by small plastic pots as in the diagrams (below and on next page). The depth of the reservoirs can easily be regulated by the size of the supporting pots.





With this setup I can let things go for more than a week without further attention, a procedure more in accord with my lifestyle.

There is one caveat. With the humidity this low, and evaporation this fast, two things happen. The process of evaporation actually depresses the surrounding air temperature a little (good). This, incidentally, is the principle on which the early Swamp Coolers operated, making living in this part of the country tolerable. However, the salts left behind when the water has gone tend to accumulate to form a scabby crust (bad). About once a month, whether they need it or not, each plant is taken to the sink, its wick rinsed off in clean water, its reservoir emptied and refilled with fresh fertilizer solution and the dust brushed off the leaves. The various house cacti are also overjoyed since they get to have the old salty water that is no longer wanted by the violets. This also gives me a chance to thoroughly groom the violets by straightening the plants in the pots, cutting off dead blossoms and repotting if the salt accumulation or an elongated neck seems to warrant, or even to throw out the hopeless or nonproductive plants.

Still another factor when living in the low deserts of the Southwest is the ratio of daylight to darkness in any 24 hour period. We do get some variation in the relative lengths of days and nights at different times of the year, but it is not nearly as much of a factor as it must be farther north. Some of my trailers and several of my single crown plants are kept on windowsills or flat surfaces as near as possible to the light. Some of them go into a quiescent phase for a few weeks in December and January but as soon as the days begin to lengthen they start blossoming again with renewed enthusiasm. The remainder of my plants are raised under lights as they would be in other part of the country.

One final observation of a situation that is, alas, beyond my control. Both of our homes are technically in deserts with low yearly rainfalls and all that goes with it. Other than elevation, the most obvious difference between the two is the clean air in the mountains and the dusty pollution of the city. There is no question in my mind that as soon as we move ourselves to the mountain in the spring, all the violets rejoice with a period of lusty growth and profuse blossoming. They must be trying to tell me something.

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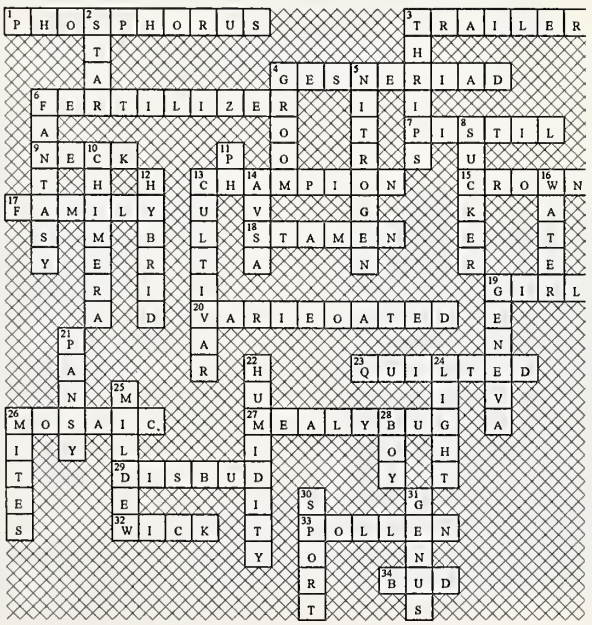
Crossword Solution

from page 46



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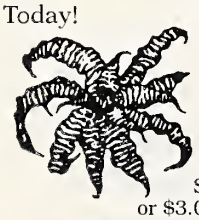

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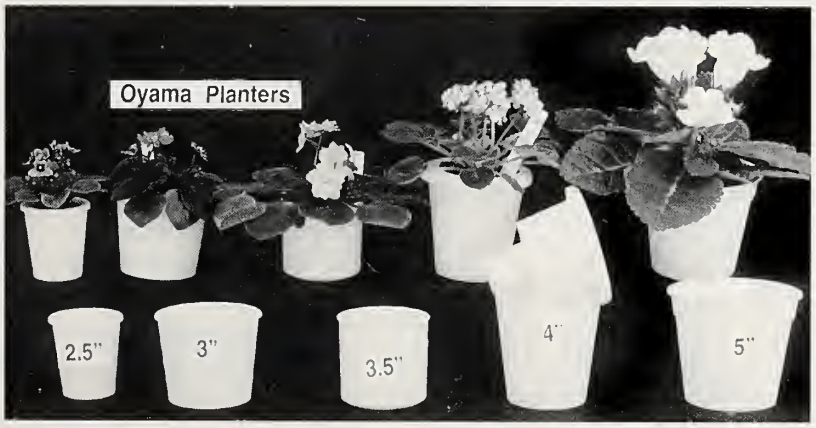

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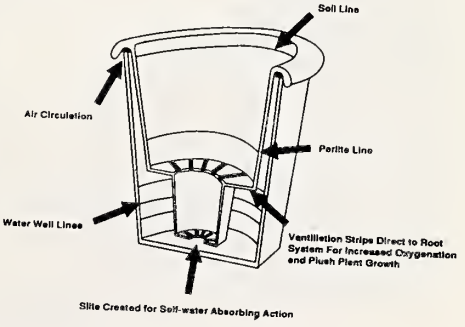

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Receive 5 Little Jewels© violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. These minis are easy to grow!

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THE VIOLET HOUSE HAS NEW OWNERS!

BeBe and Bill Edwards are fine young people who know how to listen to your questions and answer them over the phone. Give them a call on the toll-free 800 number and welcome them into their new business venture. They may not know all the answers but, I can assure you, they will do their very best to find out what you want to know, and will fill your orders promptly.

We are working closely with them to help in any way we can. Anne and I owned The Violet House for over 20 years. It provided us with many wonderful memories: Talking with lovely people, exchanging ideas about growing violets, and meeting those of you whom we knew only by reading the African Violet Magazine.

Yours, in happy days with African Violets --

Dick and Anne Maduro

BeBe and I are having a great time in our new business. We have already made many new friends through the Violet House both over the phone and in person at the shop. The Maduro's have been a tremendous help to us over the last two months.

If you have already called us you may have noticed that we answer the phone "The Violet House and Cherry Tree Designs". That's because in addition to violet supplies we also sell dried flowers and craft supplies. We have over 100 types of dried and preserved flowers. When BeBe is not packing orders she can usually be found making custom arrangements, tending to her violets, or entertaining our six year-old daughter Beth, who joins us at the shop after school.

We will be coming out with our new Violet House catalog soon. You will notice that we have lowered many of our prices and have added several new products to our line. If you don't see what you are looking for, please just give us a call and we will do our best to find it for you.

We will always strive to continue the Violet House tradition of same-day shipping, quality products, and competitive prices. We are looking forward to talking to many of you soon on the phone and visiting with you at up-coming events.

Yours Truly,

Bill and BeBe Edwards

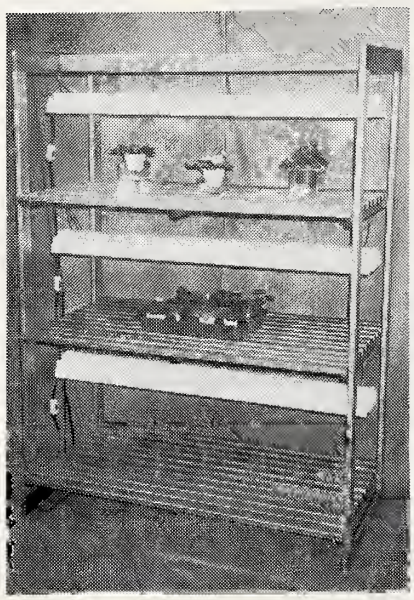
NEW! SOLID OAK PLANT STAND

In response to many requests for an attractive plant stand we are now offering this beautifully crafted solid oak stand. The stand is 67" tall, 50" wide and 24" deep. Features include:

- Durable finish consisting of a light stain and a high quality indoor/outdoor polyurethane
- Solid brass hardware
- Completely adjustable shelves and light fixtures

The stand comes complete with 3 shelves, 3 light fixtures, 3 each of grow and soft white lamps, and a power strip. Additional light fixtures and shelves are available.

Price: $350 plus actual freight



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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)
Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal
Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top
Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top
Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)
Note: Nice rolled rim on 3" and 3 1/2" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	$1.00	$1.75	$3.60	$6.60	$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

	TC		3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	$1.00	$4.00	$6.00	$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100
3"	Wh	$1.75	$3.40	$7.00	$12.50
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00

CLEAR SAUCERS

Size	10
6"	$2.75
7"	4.30
8"	5.10
9"	6.40
10"	7.30
11"	10.25
12"	11.75

PLASTIC TRAYS

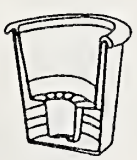
	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 3.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	$3.60	$32.50
#2 Starter 22"L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	$1.75	$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	$1.75	$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	$1.25	$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	$1.75	$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/$1.25,1000/$10.00	4" 100/$1.75,1000/$15.00

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	$2.05	$14.50	$22.50	$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	$4.00	$19.00	$35.00	$60.00

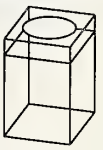
WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	$5.00	$9.00	$20.00	$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00

Crystal Clear Reservoirs -Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	$1.20	$5.00	$9.20	$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	$1.00	$4.75	$9.00	$20.25	$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite,		1 gal.	$2.00
vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special		2 gal.	$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but		1 gal.	$2.00
contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)		2 gal.	$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)		1 gal.	$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)		1 gal.	$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled		2 gal.	$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix		2 lb.	$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)		2 oz./$1.75	6 oz./$3.25
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)		2 oz./$1.75	6 oz./$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)		5.5 oz./$2.00	12 oz./$3.30
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./$3.00	2 oz./$4.00	4 oz./$6.50

PETERS FERTILIZER

AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	$3.00
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PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	$2.00

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SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	12 oz.	$4.50
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	$5.00
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ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	.4 oz./$2.00	2 oz./$4.25
SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	8 oz.	$3.50
Concentrate	8 oz.	$5.00
KNOX-OUT PT1500A - Aerosol spray	16 oz.	$7.75

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:
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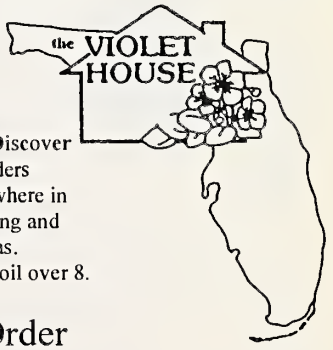
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



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- A $.50 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

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Light a candle on the sill.
Snow is falling. All is still.
Start the fire. Light the lights.
Toys to wrap. Cards to write.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your loyal patronage and wish a joyous Holiday greeting from "All of us at Tinari Greenhouses."

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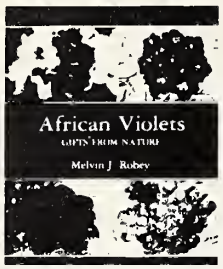
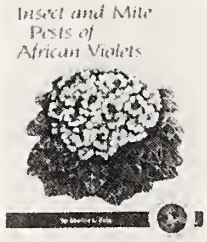


"AFRICAN VIOLETS: GIFTS FROM NATURE"
by Melvin J. Robey

Beautiful new book contains 42 color photos, 150 black & white, many illustrations and charts. Learn how to identify insect problems and gain knowledge on how to select the proper pesticide for eradication. Detailed chapters on proper potting, watering, lighting, propagation, hybridizing, and seed. A real textbook 8 1/2″ x 11″ all you ever need to know about African violets at your fingertips. Truly a masterpiece. $45.00 postpaid.

"INSECT & MITE PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS"

A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included. $12.00 with any order, separately add $1.95 postage.



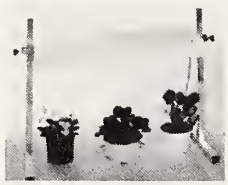
"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"
by Joan Halford

A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed.
Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements.
An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success.

$15.95 postpaid

TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1″ to 24″ on the sturdy 1″ square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

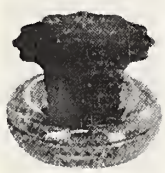


MODEL TT220WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24″ length.....$65.95 ppd.

MODEL TT240WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 38″ length.....$75.95 ppd.

4-TRAY LITE STAND...Fabricated from 1″ square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70″ high x 26″ length x 12″ depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid. 3″ wheels included.

4-Tray Lite Stand...Aluminum finish...$319.00 ppd.
4-Tray Lite Stand...Brown finish...$339.00 ppd.



DANDY POTS - Reservoir Wick Planters available in blue, pink, violet, and white. Made of fade resistant plastics, simple-to-use wick watering system, easy-to-fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning.
Mini Dandy - 2 1/4″ pot, 4 oz. transparent reservoir $3.99 each with any order, specify color desired.
Dandy Pot...4″ pot, 16 oz. transparent reservoir $5.99 each with any order, specify color desired.

TINARI AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM - Properly blended growing medium - the same used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart poly bag.....zone 0-1-2 .....$11.95 ppd.
12 Quart poly bag.....zone 3-4-5 .....$12.95 ppd.
12 Quart poly bag.....zone 6-7-8-9.....$13.95 ppd.
(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT

STYLE CSW-1
Height.....4-1/2″ overall
Width.....7″ overall
Pot Size.....For 3″ or 4″ pots
Price .....**$14.95 postpaid**

STYLE CSW-2
Height.....3-1/4″ overall
Width.....5-1/2″ overall
Pot Size.....For 2-1/4″ or 3″ pots
Price.....**$10.95 postpaid**

STYLE CSW-MINI
(for miniatures & semiminiatures)
Height.....3-1/4″ overall
Width.....4-3/4″ overall
Pot Size.....Minis
Price.....**$8.95 postpaid**

STYLE CSW-MM (Micromini)
NEW - especially for Microminis
Height.....2-1/4″
Width.....3-1/2″ overall
Price.....**$6.95 postpaid**

2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 9 sparkling colors in lavender, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, lemon yellow, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8″ in diameter, 4″ high, suitable for 2 1/2″ to 3″ pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay...soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white.
$14.95 postpaid.

WINDOW PLANTERS

3 white plastic trays with frame constructed of aluminum, for use on double hung windows. 15″ wide, length is adjustable from 13″ to 24″.

WP153 - tray size 15″ x 2″ x 3″ **$17.95 PPD**
WP156 - tray size 15″ x 2″ x 6″ **$22.95 PPD**

"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle...$3.49 each ppd.

SUCKER PLUCKER

"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties...$4.95 each ppd.

LEAF DUSTER

SPECIAL: One of each $7.95 ppd.

GIFT CERTIFICATES... Give a Gift Certificate of your designation. Can be sent directly by us with your special greetings.

G22A...COMPACT LITE STAND - 2 Shelf stand is fabricated from 1″ square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40″ high, 27″ long, 12″ deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS.

$175.00 ppd

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